

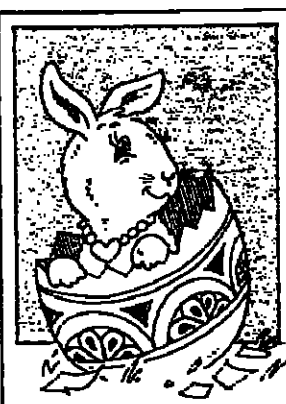
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ARAB TIMES



EASTER
Wonderland
Lunch & dinner
buffet at La Palma
March 26, 1989
Tel: 2533000/8166

NO. 7514 SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1989 SHABAN 18, 1409 AH 20 PAGES 150 FILLS

US lab claims fusion success

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, March 24, (Agencies): Two scientists who financed their own simple, chemistry-set experiment have announced a breakthrough in nuclear fusion that they said might lead to unlimited clean, inexpensive energy, and could make oil obsolete.

Dr Stanley Pons, chairman of the University of Utah chemistry department, and Professor Martin Fleischmann of Southampton, England, spoke at a news conference yesterday at the University of Utah.

They announced the creation of a safe nuclear fusion reaction using common sea water at room temperature rather than a high-radiation nuclear furnace.

Although the applications of this form of nuclear fusion were not immediately evident, the scientists noted that the energy available in one cubic foot of sea water is equivalent to the energy available in 10 tons of coal.

The simple and inexpensive process, ignored by nuclear physicists, was developed over 15 years by Fleischmann and Pons.

"We have successfully created a sustained fusion reaction at room temperature in a chemistry laboratory at the University of Utah," Pons said.

Conventional nuclear fusion research requires temperatures of millions of degrees, similar to temperatures found in the sun's interior, to create a reaction.

The scientists said they concentrate deuterium, commonly called heavy water, from sea water and place it in a vessel containing platinum and palladium electrodes.

Unlike the traditional method where heat is used, the chemists said they then employed an electrical charge.

The hydrogen atoms then join together or fuse, creating a helium atom and an extra proton or form tritium, a radioactive form of hydrogen with two extra neutrons, and a proton — plus heat energy in both cases in inexhaustible supplies.

INSIDE
20-page issue today a 2-page (14,15) supplement on Greece

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WEATHER

GRADUAL increase in cloudiness with moderate south-easterly wind which may freshen at times.
State of sea: moderate to rough
High water: 1.30 pm
Low water: 8.00 am, 8.00 pm
Sunrise: 5.46 am
Sunset: 6.02 pm
Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 26°C 79°F
Ahmad: 23°C 73°F
Fahala: 23°C 73°F
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 15°C 59°F
Ahmad: 16°C 61°F
Fahala: 14°C 57°F
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 27°C 81°F
Ahmad: 24°C 75°F
Fahala: 24°C 75°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 64 per cent
Ahmad: 72 per cent
Fahala: 75 per cent

US wants Syria out: Aoun vows to deliver

New peace plan seeks to internationalise Lebanese issue

WASHINGTON, March 24, (Agencies): The US State Department says all foreign forces, except for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, should withdraw from Lebanon in order to aid restoring stability to the country.

And Lebanese Christian military leader Major General Michel Aoun vowed today to drive Syrian troops out of Lebanon even if the battle destroyed Beirut.

The statement by US State Department spokesman Charles Redman came as Syrian troops and Muslim militias blockaded

the Christian enclave north and east of Beirut. Fighting between the 20,000 Christian troops of Lebanon's Army and the Syrians and Muslim militias has been raging since March 8.

At a news conference, Redman said the United States' goal is to help "restore Lebanon's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity. That includes the withdrawal of all foreign forces and the dismantlement of militias."

When asked if that policy included the withdrawal of Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon with 40,000 troops, Redman said: "That would be all

those non-Lebanese armed elements and organisations currently on Lebanese soil, with the exception of UNIFIL, whose mandate, in the case of UNIFIL, to remain in Lebanon, is renewed every six months at the specific request of Lebanon. That's a blanket answer."

He reiterated that statement when asked if he also included Israel, whose troops maintain a self-designated "security zone" between Lebanon and Israel.

Fierce artillery battles erupted today between Muslim forces and soldiers loyal to Aoun.

Aoun told a news conference

Militant group has two Stingers

BEIRUT, March 24, (AP): An unnamed militant fundamentalist Muslim group has acquired two US-made Stinger surface-to-air missiles, the Ash Shira magazine reported today.

The weekly quoted an unidentified source "closely connected with the group" as saying the deadly shoulder-fired missiles "have reached Lebanon through an embassy that had provided part of the large sum paid" to the unnamed sellers of the missiles.

he was determined to force Syrian troops out of Lebanon even if the battles destroyed Beirut.

Aoun said he would not settle for "anything less than Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon."

ese conflict through its internationalisation was discussed in Washington yesterday by the secretary-general of the United Nations and Secretary of State James Baker, according to American and United Nations officials.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the officials said Javier Perez de Cuellar carried with him some ideas for treating the Lebanese conflict as a separate issue from the overall Middle East conflict — something he confirmed in his brief public comments to reporters after the meeting with Baker.

Marcos receives 4 former ministers

HONOLULU, March 24, (AP): The ailing Ferdinand Marcos has received a bedside visit from four of his former cabinet ministers, who are under subpoena to testify against the former Philippine President on federal charges of racketeering.

"It was a sad re-union because of his (Marcos) condition," Marcos aide Arturo Ariza said yesterday following the visit at St Francis Medical Centre. "They introduced themselves, wished him well and encouraged him to fight these ailments so he might someday return home. Mostly, they just gave our President words of encouragement."

Marcos, 71, has been hospitalised since Jan 15 with heart and lung problems. He remained in guarded condition last night.

The former ministers were handed subpoenas on Wednesday when they arrived at Honolulu International Airport, while a fifth member of the delegation, former Education Minister Jaime Laya, was arrested by federal agents on a material witness warrant.

Laya, who was once head of the Philippines Central Bank, was released on bail after relinquishing his passport and being ordered to appear on May 8 in US district court in New York.

The visitors — former Labour Minister Blas Ople, former Justice Minister Estelito Mendoza, former agrarian reform minister Conrado Estrella and former social services minister Sylvia Montes — also have been ordered to appear in New York federal court on May 8.

DAY BY DAY

ADVERTISEMENTS by employers about their missing maids are really disturbing.

The missing maid problem causes considerable inconvenience to the employer and is attributed to the residence law which makes employers responsible for their employees.

If an employee does not want to work for a particular employer, it should be enough to inform the concerned authorities. This would eliminate the need for the employers to advertise and publish photographs of missing employees.

Additionally, the new regulations banning the transfer of private sector employees from one sponsor to another before the lapse of three years is undoubtedly harmful and inhuman. If this law is enacted to curb "trading residences" it could have been achieved in several other ways.

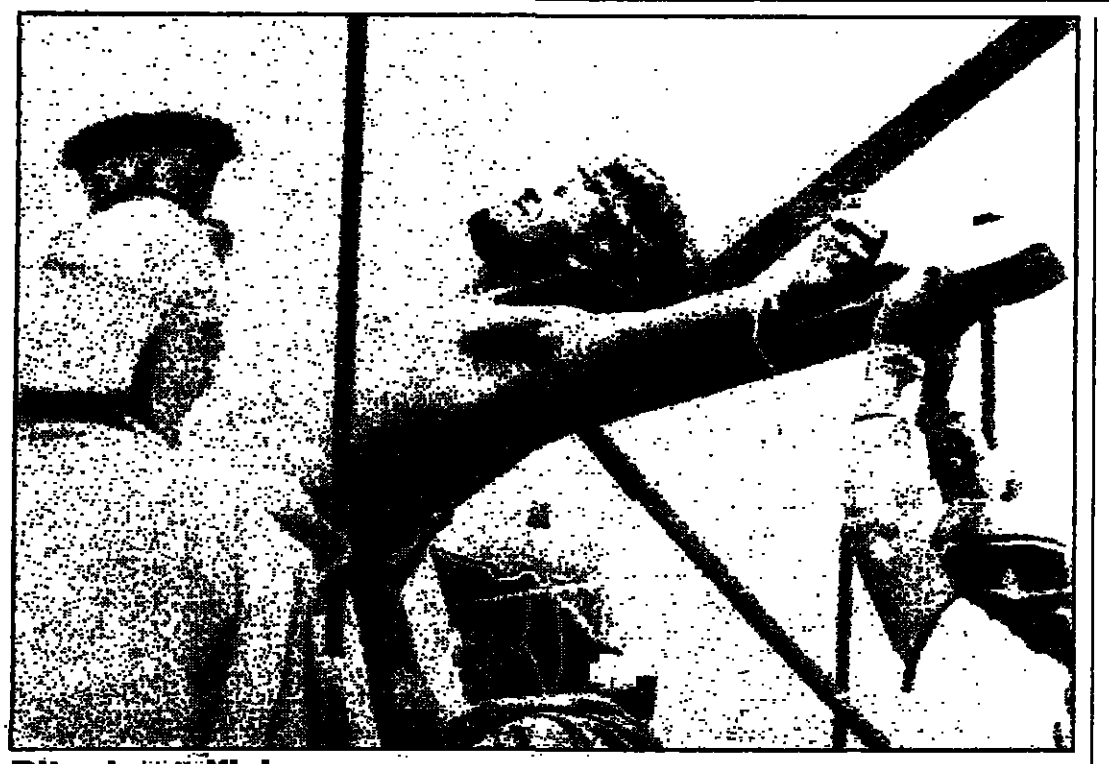
Zahed Matar



Beauty in court

Fawn Hall, Oliver North's former secretary arrives at district court in Washington for her second day of testimony in North's trial. (Reuters wirephoto)

See Hall cries Page 2



Ritual crucifixion
A Filipino penitent nailed on wooden cross, writhes in pain as he is being lifted up on Good Friday in San Pedro Cutud north of Manila. (Reuters wirephoto)

See nailed to crosses Page 2

Call for 3-state federation Peres proposes plan

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 24, (Agencies): An Israeli newspaper reported yesterday that a peace plan proposed by Labour Party leader Shimon Peres calls for a demilitarised Palestinian state in federation with Israel and Jordan.

An aide to Peres, who is finance minister, denied the report. "There is no Palestinian state in that plan," said Peres spokesman Avi Gil.

Asked about other elements of the plan, including a one-year truce between Israel and the Palestinians, Gil said: "They are some sort of mix of rumours, speculations that were not necessarily part of Peres' plan at all."

He declined to comment further. Peres has said he would only launch a personal initiative if the plan to be presented by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in Washington next month fails to advance the peace process.

Israel's coalition government of the left-leaning Labour Party and Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc opposes creation of a Palestinian state and talks with the PLO.

Shamir refused comment on Peres' reported peace plan. "I only heard this today from the radio and read it in the papers. I cannot relate to something that is not clear, and when there is doubt about its existence," Shamir told Israeli Radio.

Shamir has said his own peace plan to be presented in Washington will not include any territorial compromise.

Yesterday's Haaretz headline read "Peres proposes the formation of a demilitarised Palestinian state."

Bush, Arafat laud talks



Arafat door open

WASHINGTON, March 24, (AP): President George Bush praised US talks with the PLO in an interview published today and said he would try to convince Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir "something good might come out of this kind of discussion."

"I will tell him that the talks that we... are having with the PLO representatives there in Tunisia are good things, and we'll tell him why I think they are good things," Bush said in the interview with the Washington Times.

Bush is scheduled to meet with Shamir, who refuses to speak with PLO representatives, in Washington on April 6.

Asked whether he would urge Shamir to join the talks with the PLO, Bush told the newspaper, "I don't know what I'll say to him about that. But I'll say to him that we have got to move the peace process forward. We may, by then, be ready with some specific ideas."

In Tunis, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat also said yesterday second formal talks between the US and the PLO were positive.

"We believe the content of the meeting was positive and bore the stamp of seriousness... this is an indication of the interest which we and the US administration are giving to this dialogue," he told a news conference in Tunis.

Arafat told reporters the PLO believes the only solution to the Middle East crisis is an international conference involving all of the parties, including the PLO, Israel and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Outlining the programme Haaretz said the plan calls for a three-state federation between Israel, Jordan and a Palestinian entity.

The Palestinian entity would have all attributes of statehood, including a parliament and a police force, but no Army, Haaretz said.

Israeli troops would withdraw to defined areas, including along the Jordan river. Most of the West Bank would be demilitarised, the newspaper quoted the Peres plan as saying.

"Peres has called this the Ben-elux model," the newspaper said, referring to the close co-operation among the western European countries Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

(Continued on Page 4 col. 5)

Labour law may change

Trial period to last 3 months

THE new labour law which came into effect on March 22 may be amended after three months, the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed has said.

He added that the labour law has been implemented on a trial basis for three months during which period the pros and cons of the new regulations will be reviewed.

"The new regulations, applicable only to the private sector, will be subjected to strict scrutiny," Sheikh Nasser said.

"The ministry will not hesitate to amend any regulations found unsatisfactory or containing loopholes," he added.

The trial period is intended to provide the ministry with pertinent information which will assist in streamlining the new regulations. The ministry will promptly review any of the rules of the ministerial decision based on

Abu Musa to continue his attacks

KUWAIT, March 24, (AP): A renegade Palestinian guerrilla leader, who claimed responsibility for a recent attack on an Israeli patrol from Jordan, says he is determined "to continue military struggle against Israel until the liberation of Palestine from the River (Jordan) to the (Mediterranean) Sea."

Col Abu Musa, head of the breakaway group Fatah-uprising, said in an interview published today in a Kuwaiti newspaper: "Our conviction is that Palestine will not be regained except through armed struggle and the perpetuation of the conflict with the Zionist entity (Israel)."

He added: "Palestine will not be liberated through conferences or bilateral or collective dialogues."

He has repeatedly criticised the peace initiative that PLO chairman Yasser Arafat began last November at the Algiers conference of PLO parliamentary body, the Palestine National Council, that included a renunciation of terrorism and recognition of Israel's right to exist.

The initiative led to the United States lifting a 13-year ban on talks with the PLO.

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Afghan mujahedeen offer to fight Israel

Support for Hamas

ABU DHABI, March 24, (AP): Afghan Muslim rebels are considering joining the Palestinians in fighting Israel, a rebel leader said here yesterday.

"We have declared war against Israel, after beating the Soviets, and some of the Mujahedeen are preparing themselves to go to Palestine to fight with their Muslim brothers," Mohammed Yasser, a former information minister in the pro-Soviet Afghan government in Kabul said.

Yasser currently is chairman of the political committee of the Islamic Union Organisation, led by Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, the prime minister of a provisional rebel government formed last month. He was in Abu Dhabi to lecture on the war in Afghanistan waged by the rebels, against the Soviet-backed communist government.

The provisional government was formed in the wake of the withdrawal of the Soviet troops last month.

Yasser invited Palestinians to visit Afghanistan to learn about the tactics used by the mujahedeen in their nine-year battle against the Soviet troops.

"We have already decided to go and fight with the Palestinians, but still do not know how, since the frontline Arab states are not allowing fighters to penetrate through their borders," he said.

Commenting on the current military situation in Afghanistan, where fighting against the Kabul government continues, Yasser said about 500 guerrillas have been killed or wounded in battles raging in and around the city of Jalalabad.

He admitted that these losses were the heaviest since the Soviet withdrawal.

"We now have entered a new stage of the war, namely street fighting, as our forces already entered Jalalabad and engaged in direct confrontation with the communist forces," he said.

Yasser said that the rebels will attack Kabul, if the government does not surrender. The mujahedeen had stated earlier they would not attack the Afghan capital.

He declared open support for Hamas, a Palestinian Muslim fundamentalist group heavily involved in the 15-month-old uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Latin drug barons divert flow to Mideast markets

DUBAI, March 24, (Reuters): Middle East nations, finding the heroin "monkey" on their own backs, are demanding concerted moves to seal drug routes through the region and halt growing addiction among their people.

The threat is growing as South American cocaine barons are creating a new market in the Middle East.

Drug enforcement officers at a 16-nation conference in Dubai said only international co-operation could block a flood of drugs from poppy fields in the Golden Crescent — a poorly-policed swath of territory spanning the borders of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran.

"Up until the 1980s, we had no heroin problem here. Now one knew the meaning of heroin. Now we have a major problem," said Dubai chief of detectives Abdul Aziz Mohammed Abdullah.

"A year ago, there were virtually no cocaine seizures here. Now there is a kilo here, a kilo there," Mel Schabillon, special agent at the US Department of Justice said.

The conference brought together heads of narcotics bureaus from such countries as the United States, Pakistan, Thailand and the Gulf states. Iran did not attend the meeting, which was held under the auspices of the US Drug Enforcement Administration.

Old clandestine drug routes through Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, and India were rapidly expanded to carry the narcotics, helping turn millions of people in these nations into addicts on the way.

Iranian officials estimate one million people out of their 50 million population are drug addicts. Iran has executed more than 300 traffickers so far this year and arrested several thousand.

The crackdown since January has forced smugglers to turn to other routes and ports around the Gulf are dangerously exposed.

ARAB TIMES

Grand Bingo
KD 250 must be won
Coupon for Game No. 69 appears on
Page 13. Last date for sending entries
is April 2.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mass grave found

MOSCOW, March 24, (Reuters): Soviet authorities said today that a mass grave found in a Ukrainian forest last year held bodies of people killed by Stalin's secret service.

Ukrainian chief prosecutor Viktor Kulik told the official Tass news agency he believed there were other mass graves in the Darnitsk forest, near the city of Kiev. Remains were still being examined and local people questioned in a hunt for more details.

Formal apology

TOKYO, March 24, (UPI): Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita will formally apologize for Japan's 36-year colonial rule of the Korean peninsula and try to reopen dialogue with communist North Korea, government officials said today.

Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno told the Diet, or Parliament, yesterday that Takeshita will make the apology March 30 in reply to Makoto Tanabe, former secretary-general of the opposition Socialist Party.

Uno declined to disclose further details.

Shooting rampage

LITTLETON, Colorado, March 24, (AP): A man on a rampage with a submachine gun abducted a woman, killed her and her mother, then raped another woman and shot two police officers yesterday before shooting himself, police said.

The gunman, tentatively identified as Eugene Thompson Jr. was taken into custody with a head wound around 3 pm (2200 GMT) from a duplex home in this suburb south of Denver where he shot the officers when they entered the building.

600 killed in Tibet

BEIJING, March 24, (Reuters): China said today that more than 600 people have been killed or injured in 21 outbreaks of separatist violence in Tibet over the past 18 months.

"These riots, all organized, have been escalating in scale with a rising toll of life and property," the official New China News Agency quoted Major General Zhang Shaosong, political commissar of the People's Liberation Army in Tibet, as saying.

Hall cries on stand during North trial

WASHINGTON, March 24, (AP): A secretary wept on the stand and praised her old boss, former presidential aide Oliver North, at his trial yesterday and said their wholesale shredding of Iran-Contra documents "was no big deal."

Alternately crying and spitting back sharp responses, Fawn Hall twice appeared unable to go on with her testimony at North's trial, causing impromptu recesses. Her sympathies throughout were obviously with North, though she hardly ever looked at him.

North is on trial for his involvement in a large US political scandal — the secret sales of arms to Iran and diversion of the profits to Nicaraguan rebels, known as Contras.

"It's tough when people portray you as a witness for the prosecution when you are a witness for the truth," she said outside the courthouse. "Hopefully, the good guy will win."

She called North's firing by then-US President Reagan on Nov 25, 1986, unfair. "I was very upset," she recalled. "When I heard about it, I was very angry."

Hall, who was North's secretary at the National Security Council for nearly four years, admitted that when attorney-general's investigators were closing in on Nov 21, 1986, she altered documents to soften recorded versions of North's involvement with the Nicaraguan Contras.

She also said she helped him in what has been called "a shredding party" of Iran-Contra documents.

The former Marine lieutenant colonel is on trial on 12 charges, including destroying documents and lying to Congress about his activities.

Hall, like most of the 20 other prosecution witnesses to date, first obtained immunity from prosecution before agreeing to testify.



Fawn Hall

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Power struggle resolved

Botha to quit after polls

JOHANNESBURG, March 24, (Reuters): South African state television said yesterday President P.W. Botha would retire after a general election this year and hand power to rival F.W. de Klerk.

The television news programme, quoting unnamed political sources, said the ruling National Party (NP) had resolved the leadership struggle between Botha, who suffered a mild stroke on Jan 18, and De Klerk.

"An understanding has apparently been reached and an announcement is expected after the Easter weekend," said the programme, which has close links with the Pretoria government.

It gave no details of the agreement.

The television said details about the future of the two men, locked in a struggle which has been dubbed "the battle of the bald eagles" by the national press, would be announced at the next party caucus on April 6.

The NP wants Botha to step down after 10 years as head of government in favour of De Klerk, whom they see as more in line with party thinking.

300 killed in Indian raid: Tamils

COLOMBO, March 24, (Agencies): Tamil separatist guerrillas yesterday accused Indian troops of killing more than 300 civilians in a massive anti-rebel offensive in Sri Lanka.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam guerrilla group said in a statement that hundreds of civilians were injured and homes were wiped out by heavy artillery, aerial bombardment and helicopter strafing, in Mullaitivu region.

An Indian high commission spokeswoman said about 65 rebels and 13 soldiers have died in the operation which was continuing, since last week, on a limited scale.

The rebel statement said several people fled to temples and schools. It said 30,000 troops in 56 camps have placed the Mullaitivu region under a military siege.

The statement followed a report Sri Lanka is to probe charges that government forces were involved in some civilian deaths among 140 people killed in political violence this week.

Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne told Parliament yesterday a special team from the Criminal Investigation Department would investigate the killings without bias.

The leader of the only Muslim political party — the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress — Mohamed Ashraff said in Parliament yesterday both the Tamil militant groups and the Sinhalese militants, should be brought into the democratic process without any further delay.

Vardarajan Perumal, chief minister of the Tamil-dominated northeastern province of Sri Lanka, said in New Delhi that the Sri Lankan government was not adhering to the principles of the 1987 peace accord aimed at ending the rebel war.

Perumal said his government's powers were being deprived by inadequacies in the Sri Lankan constitution, faulty interpretations of the accord and administrative blocks.

He said his government had no control over education, administrative services, law and order and allotment and distribution of land.

Less painful
AM waves used to treat rapid heartbeats

ANAHEIM, California, March 24, (AP): Researchers are using AM radio waves to treat patients with uncontrolled rapid heartbeats, a method they say is safer and less painful than other techniques.

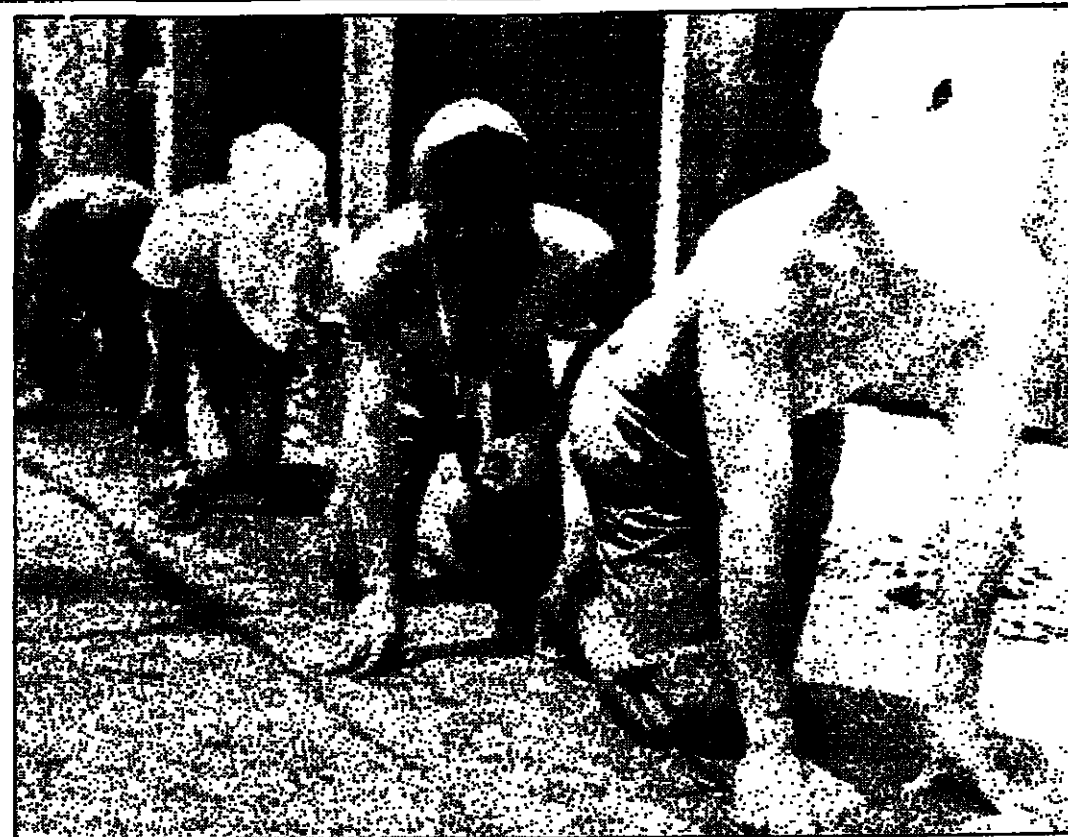
Alcohol and electrical shocks also are being applied directly to the heart by long thin tubes called catheters, which are inserted through blood vessels, to halt various abnormal heart rhythms without surgery, doctors reported during the American College of Cardiology's annual meeting, which ended yesterday.

For now, patients who have a pea-sized part of their heart zapped to death with radio frequency energy must wear pacemakers afterward, as do almost all patients who have their abnormal heartbeats fixed with the older method of electrical shock, said Dr Jonathan Langberg of the University of California, San Francisco.

But radio wave energy can be applied to the heart in much smaller, controlled doses than electricity, making it safer and less painful, said Langberg, an assistant professor of medicine.

He hopes to use radio waves to slow rather than cut the cardiac electrical connection that causes rapid heartbeats, allowing certain patients to escape the need for pacemakers. Dr Lawrence Epstein, also at UCSF, and French scientists already have done that successfully for one type of rapid heartbeat using mild electric shocks.

So far, the San Francisco research team used radio waves to control rapid heartbeats in 10 patients whose supraventricular tachycardia, or SVT, couldn't be stopped with drugs. The method failed on six others, four of whom then were treated successfully with shocks.



Hooded penitents crawl on a street in the Manila district of Pasay as part of a Good Friday ritual. (Reuters wirephoto)

8 nailed to crosses in Philippines

KAPITANGAN, Philippines, March 24, (UPI): At least eight Filipinos, including a woman faith healer, were crucified in bloody Good Friday rites witnessed by thousands of spectators in Asia's only Christian nation. In the rice farming village of Kapitangan, 25 miles (40 km) north of Manila, more than 5,000 people watched in scorching midday heat as men dressed in Roman centurion outfits nailed 27-year-old faith healer Lucia Reyes to a wooden cross.

In nearby San Pedro Cutud, adjacent to the US Clark Air Base, seven men were nailed to crosses in a re-enactment of Christ's crucifixion.

The Department of Tourism built viewing decks, refreshment stands and souvenir stalls in San Pedro Cutud.

Throughout the Philippines, penitents today dragged heavy wooden crosses, slashed their backs with razors and whipped the wounds with glass-studded bamboo strips in rites that date back to the introduction of Catholicism in the islands by Spanish friars in the 16th century.

In Manila, some 5,000 urban slum dwellers held a daylong march across the capital before massing outside the presidential palace to protest the demolition of their squatter homes.

Roh asked to resign

SEOUL, March 24, (AP): South Korea's main dissident alliance demanded today that President Roh Tae-Woo resign and radical students hurling firebombs clashed with riot police in separate clashes at Sunkyunkwan and Hong-I Universities in Seoul to protest the M-16 decision.

The United National Democratic Movement of Korea, which represents some 200 dissident groups, said Roh must resign immediately because of his March 20 decision to indefinitely postpone a referendum of his performance.

About 1,000 radical students hurling firebombs and rocks battled riot police in separate clashes at Sunkyunkwan and Hong-I Universities in Seoul to protest the M-16 decision. Students hurled hundreds of firebombs at riot police, who fired tear gas at protesters.

US expels Soviet official in retaliation

WASHINGTON, March 24, (Agencies): The United States said yesterday it had ordered a Soviet trade official to leave the United States in retaliation for Moscow's recent expulsion of an American military attaché.

"Sergey Malinin, an employee of the Soviet trade organisation Amtorg in New York and his family must depart the United States by the end of the month," State Department spokesman Charles Redman said at a news briefing.

In Moscow, the official Soviet news agency Tass said today that the expulsion of a Soviet official is pure retaliation, rather than punishment for actual wrongdoing.

Redman "did not conceal that the action was not prompted by any other considerations but by a decision of the US to respond to the recent expulsion from the USSR of Lt. Col. Daniel Francis van Gundy," Tass said in a dispatch from Washington.

Yeltsin will 'win in Soviet polls'

MOSCOW, March 24, (Agencies): An unofficial Soviet opinion poll has suggested rebel communist Boris Yeltsin will sweep into the country's new parliament in Sunday's history-making general election.

Soviet sources said today the poll was conducted throughout Moscow this week by journalists working for newspapers, which have largely ignored Yeltsin's campaign.

They found him running ahead of his officially-backed opponent by 17 to one.

A huge vote for Yeltsin, a populist expelled from the Kremlin leadership a year ago after urging faster and more radical reform of the Soviet system, would return him to the front of the Kremlin stage.

He is standing for a constituency representing the whole of the capital, where he became the scourge of old-style officials while party chief from 1985 to 1987, in the Soviet Union's first, multi-candidate elections in decades.

What has become known as "the Yeltsin phenomenon" — with thousands of supporters marching through the city, denouncing his top-level critics — has partly overshadowed the rest of the March 26 voting.

Polling opened today in remote regions of the country with reindeer herders and Arctic geologists to first cast their ballots in the new electoral system.

Central American agreement signed

WASHINGTON, March 24, (Reuters): President Bush announced today that he and congressional leaders had reached agreement on a Central America policy calling for humanitarian aid for the Nicaraguan Contra rebels.

"We signed today in the cabinet room a bipartisan accord on Central America which sets out the broad outlines of US policy toward the region," Bush told a news conference.

Boat, tanker collide

TOKYO, March 24, (AP): A small, overloaded boat collided with a Japanese tanker and sank in the South China Sea in early March, apparently killing 130 Vietnamese refugees, a survivor said yesterday.

Reports of the missing 130 people surfaced after 35 survivors of the sinking entered the port of Yokohama.

Security stepped up as US alerts airports

LONDON, March 24, (Agencies): Some European airports stepped up security after receiving a US alert about a possible hijack attempt by Palestinian terrorists, but others reported business as usual yesterday in busy pre-holiday travel.

Authorities in London, Rome and Brussels said security had been tightened at airports because of the alert, but no additional precautions were reported in Amsterdam, Athens or Madrid.

Disclosure of the warning spurred anger in Washington, where Transportation Secretary Samuel K. Skinner called it a "potentially serious compromise of intelligence-gathering activity."

"Hopefully no one will lose their life over this, but it is a very serious matter," Skinner said. The FAA said the bulletin was sensitive information not designed for public distribution.

"The release of this information by unauthorised persons can be counter-productive to the civil aviation community's efforts to provide a totally effective security system," the FAA said.

The alert was carried in several London newspapers. The tabloid Daily Express published a photocopy of part of the warning that it said had been received by International Aviation Security, a subsidiary of Trans World Airlines.

Busiest

News of the warning broke on the busiest travel day of the long Easter weekend. Good Friday and the Monday after Easter are both legal holidays in Britain.

The US Federal Aviation Administration warned two weeks before the Pan Am Flight 103 bombing that people posing as police had questioned TWA staff at Frankfurt about the transport of explosives, detonators and guns, a newspaper reported today.

The Independent said the Dec 7 alert was the fourth warning of the dangers of a potential terrorist attack in circulation in the weeks before the Dec 21 Pan Am bombing.

Three men said yesterday they slipped undetected into a maintenance area at London's Heathrow airport and made a video inside a British Airways jumbo jet to highlight lax security.

Independent Television News (ITN) broadcast the amateur video as the US Federal Aviation Administration issued a warning of a possible hijack threat in Europe.

In what ITN described as a "raid for fun," the three climbed into the Boeing 747 through its undercarriage, well on Monday and romped through the passenger cabin and cockpit.

"Here's Darren sitting in the captain's seat. It's easy to get in but what's going through our mind is just pure excitement," said one of the trespassers, Shoaib Khan, narrating on the video tape.

The front-page Daily Express report also came during a political debate in Britain over whether airlines were properly informed about a radio-cassette bomb before Pan Am Flight 103, a Boeing 747 bound for New York, was blown apart over Lockerbie in Scotland, Dec 27, killing 270 people.

"The public has been super. They understand the situation and are very co-operative," said Barry Buttenshaw, assistant public relations manager at London's Gatwick Airport, where a quarter-million passengers were expected to pass through during the four-day holiday weekend.

Delays

Buttenshaw reported no flight delays because of stepped-up security, and spokeswoman Roz Clark at London's Heathrow airport also reported traffic moving smoothly yesterday afternoon.

Yesterday morning, however, passengers waiting to board stood in long lines waiting to be checked through security.

Security staff "were very thorough and searched everything we were taking through, which we were pleased to see," said Alan Dean, a US resident who was waiting for a flight at Heathrow.

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Moscow to react if security threatened

Pakistan accused of violation

MOSCOW, March 24. (Agencies): Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze accused Pakistan of violating the Geneva settlement accords on Afghanistan yesterday and warned that if the security of the Soviet embassy staff in Kabul is threatened Moscow would react resolutely.

Shevardnadze's attack on Pakistan in a lengthy interview with the official Tass news agency, followed a report in the Communist Party daily Pravda which said US-backed rebels had taken control of most main roads leading out of Kabul.

Shevardnadze said that although "not a single soldier" is left in Afghanistan, Pakistan had completely ignored the Geneva clause on ending interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

He said the Soviet Union had a large embassy in Kabul and a number of "Soviet specialists" remained in the Afghan capital.

"Any attempts to encroach upon their security will draw a most resolute Soviet response," he said without elaboration.

He said that frustration of the Geneva agreements threw a question mark over the further course of the Afghan settlement with "all the ensuing and far-reaching consequences."

Shevardnadze said the Geneva settlement had given the Kremlin a chance to bring its soldiers home, the United States the chance to save "billions of dollars" of arms supplies to the rebels, and Pakistan a chance to relieve itself of a refugee burden.

"The main reasons why the Afghan situation still causes concern are not some weak points in the Geneva accords, but the fact that they are not observed in full," Shevardnadze said.

As long as Pakistani Army units continued to interfere in Afghanistan and so long as Pakistan provided a base for the rebels, he said there was nothing in the Geneva accords to stop Moscow discontinuing its arms supplies to the Afghan government.

In a report from Kabul, Pravda said all land communications links between the capital and main provincial centres have been severed. Airlifts remain the only means of supply and contact between outlying districts and the central government of President Najibullah.

It said that Afghan government troops defending Jalalabad were being supplied by an airlift but a troop convoy sent to relief the city had been stopped in its

tracks near the village of Sarobi about halfway between Kabul and Jalalabad because rebels have blown up bridges and roads.

In Peshawar, rebels said today they had repulsed an attempt by government troops to reopen the road from Kabul to the besieged city of Jalalabad.

Rebel sources said that a government force came down the road from the town of Sorobi yesterday, backed by a helicopter bombardment.

The guerrillas shot down one helicopter and killed three soldiers, the sources said, citing radio reports from the area. They also blew up a bridge, the second in recent days.

Meanwhile, Najibullah's government called on Western and other countries to send back to Kabul the diplomats evacuated on security grounds before February 15.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman quoted by the official Afghan agency Bakhtar said the United States, as a guarantor of the April 1988 Geneva agreements, should take the lead.

The US and Afghan embassies in Kabul and Washington could play a prominent role in improving relations between the two governments, he said.



Afghan Prime Minister Sultan Ali Kishmand (right) and Vice-President Dr. A. Wahid Sorabi pray at the mosque of Mazar-e-Sharif during the celebration of the new year. (Reuters wirephoto)

Thousands gather to pray

Mazar-e-Sharif celebration

MAZAR-E-SHARIF, Afghanistan, March 24. (Reuters): In Mazar-e-Sharif, all the pigeons are white.

So holy is the city, say the faithful, that any grey ones that arrive turn white within 40 days.

Mazar-e-Sharif, a muddy and romantic place of 200,000 souls in northern Afghanistan, is the resting place of Hazrat Imam Ali, cousin and son-in-law of the holy Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) and fourth Caliph of Islam.

Early in the morning, thousands of the faithful crowd the courtyards of the mosque to hear prayers and chant readings from the Holy Quran.

Pashtuns and Tajiks, Nuristanis and Uzbeks and Hazaraks and dozens of other tribes, their faces and races varying from European to Mongolian, crowd the precincts.

United by Islam, divided by politics and war, they

have come to listen this year to speeches by party officials and an address by Prime Minister Sultan Ali Kishmand calling for peace and denouncing Pakistan.

The climax of the celebrations, the moment they have been waiting for, is the raising of the Janda, a long, decorated maypole covered with cloths and erected on Nowruz annually here for the past 630 years.

It may represent the raising of the standard of Islam by Hazrat Ali, or perhaps not — nobody seems very sure. But its significance is doubtful, its effect is magical.

In the afternoon the men leave their women to gossip and go off to the Buzkashi ground to watch the ancient Afghan sport where ferocious riders try to drag the headless corpse of a calf into a chalk circle while their opponents use any means short of murder to stop them.

Three die as floods hit South Yemen

NICOSIA, March 24. (Reuters): Floods swept away a man in South Yemen's normally arid eastern coastal plain today and destroyed houses and crops, a journalist in the area said.

At least two men and a child have died in storms which started five days ago. The downpour continued all night and stopped early today in Sayhuti, the second-largest town of Hadramaut province.

Details were gathered by a local reporter for the Aden news agency in Sayhuti, 750 km (450 miles) east of Aden, and relayed to Reuters by the agency's office in Aden. The man who was swept away today was still missing, he said.

South Yemen, which has a population of about 2.5 million and ranks as one of the world's poorest nations, has appealed for international help.

Aden Radio, monitored in North Yemen, reported on Thursday that rain destroyed 64 houses and damaged 140 in the coastal town of Al-Sihir, 575 km (360 miles) east of Aden.

Further east towards the border with Oman, rain has also hit areas in Al Mahrah province, the lowest part of the country, were rain is uncommon.

Carter speaks on Mideast

'We want peace'

ATLANTA, March 24. (Reuters): The Middle East may be as receptive to peace talks now as it was 10 years ago when Israel and Egypt signed the Camp David accords, former President Jimmy Carter has said.

Speaking to reporters about Sunday's 10th anniversary of the treaty-signing in Washington, Carter said ordinary people throughout the Middle East wanted peace.

"The obstacle has always been leaders who were overly timid, or who were demagogues, or who were uncertain about the results that might occur if they made an initiative move," said Carter, who brokered the peace accords at the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland.

Former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat

"were able to overcome this with great political courage. And now the environment is being created whereby this could be done again."

Initiatives Carter said any initiatives probably would have to be orchestrated through an international peace conference.

But he wondered aloud whether Israel's leadership under Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir "can make a step forward that will not make Shamir lose face or be embarrassed and whether the Palestinians can negotiate — (they) cannot give up their ultimate hope of self-determination."

"I don't think this is an impossibility," he said. "The environment is being created where the opportunities can be explored."

See decade of peace Page 6

Mahdi to meet Garang

Move to end civil war

CAIRO, March 24. (Agencies): Sudanese Prime Minister Sadiq Al Mahdi has offered to meet with Col. John Garang, leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Army fighting government forces in the south, in a bid to end the civil war there, the semi-official Middle East News Agency reported yesterday.

Quoting the Khartoum newspaper Al Ayam, the agency said Al Mahdi proposed to Garang that they meet before the end of March, adding it was still not known if Al Mahdi had received a response from Garang.

Western aid donors have been appealing for a ceasefire in the more than 5-year-old war to facilitate the delivery of urgently needed food supplies to southern Sudan, where tens of thousands of people are threatened by starvation.

Al Mahdi's refusal to agree to a peace agreement reached last November between Garang and the Democratic Unionist Party led to the DUP's withdrawal earlier this month from the government in which it was the main coalition partner.

The National Islamic Front, which also opposed the agreement on grounds it would result in the suspension of plans to introduce Islamic law, replaced the DUP as the main partner in the coalition.

A new broad-based government, ordered by the Army, was announced by Al Mahdi on Wednesday but for the first time it did not include the NIF because of its unchanged position on the civil war.

Al Mahdi, who wrapped up negotiations on the composition of the new cabinet just minutes before a news conference on



Al Mahdi

Wednesday, said he could not release the names of the new ministers until they have been endorsed by the five-man presidential council, Sudan's collective head of state.

The agreement brings the country nearer to the end of a monthlong political crisis sparked by military demands for the formation of a broad-based government including parties that want an end to the war against the Sudan People's Liberation Army.

The new government will be dominated by Al Mahdi's Umma Party and the DUP, but will include representatives of parties not represented in the Parliament, and trade and professional unions.

All the groups have endorsed government programme for reversing Sudan's foreign policy tilt toward Libya and Iran and prompt action on the peace plan negotiated in November between the DUP and the SPLA.

Al Mahdi said Umma would hold eight posts in a 23-seat

cabinet, including finance, interior, education, energy and transport, while the DUP would receive six seats, including foreign affairs, attorney-general, social welfare and information.

Four seats, including agriculture and local government, will go to parties from southern Sudan, where the Christian-led SPLA has been fighting for autonomy from the Arabicspeaking Muslim north.

The labour and professional unions will get the health and labour portfolios while tourism will go to the small Sudan National Party. A group of non-parliamentary parties will get the ministry of public service and administrative reform.

Al Mahdi said the formation of a new government had been held up for more than two weeks because of disagreement among the southern parties on how to distribute their four seats.

Agreement was reached with the parties just minutes before he walked into the conference hall, he said.

Sudanese rebels today said they were awaiting details of a huge UN famine relief operation that aims to deliver food to more than a million people in southern Sudan next month.

The effort, which was discussed earlier this month during a UN conference in Sudan's capital Khartoum, was able to proceed only after the rebel SPLA agreed to safe passage for the supplies through guerrilla-controlled areas of southern Sudan.

● Sudanese rebels said yesterday they had shot down a MiG-23 jet near the southern Sudan city of Juba, the besieged capital of Equatoria province.

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مكتبة

Efforts to achieve administrative development

Sheikh Saad to inaugurate meetings

His Highness's keenness on the role of the administrative apparatus.

Inauguration

In a statement to KUNA, Saad said the Civil Service Commission will organise a series of meetings for occupants of leading posts in ministries and other

government institutions.

Saad said HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah will inaugurate the first meeting which will take place at Bayan Palace tomorrow evening.

He said the meetings were in the framework of efforts being

exerted to achieve administrative development, saying they would be a marvelous opportunity for exchanging views to enrich administrative development movement with fruitful and constructive dialogue.

Undersecretaries, their assistant and all top officials at public

institutions will take part in the three-day meetings.

Justice and Home Affairs Minister Dhurgham Al Khatib, Finance Minister Jasssem Al Khatib and State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashid Abdul Aziz Al Rashid will preside over the three sessions respectively.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Saudi minister

KUWAIT, March 24. (KUNA): Saudi Public Works and Housing Minister Prince Mu'tab Bin Abdul Aziz arrived in Kuwait yesterday for co-operation talks with Kuwaiti officials.

The Saudi official, who was invited by Kuwait State Minister for Housing Affairs Nasser Abdulla Al Roudhan, will be accompanied by a large delegation, according to a statement released by the National Housing Authority.

The Saudi prince will acquaint himself with Kuwait's urban development and exchange expertise with Kuwaiti housing officials, the statement said.

Minister returns

KUWAIT, March 24. (KUNA): Health Minister Abdul Razzak Yousef Abdul Razzak yesterday returned home after a six-day official visit to Libya.

Abdul Razzak took part in the 14th session of the Ministerial Council of Arab Health Ministers which was held on 20-22 of this month.

The Kuwaiti minister also attended the 59th meeting of the executive bureau which was held 18-19 of this month.

The council's deliberations dealt with a number of health services in the occupied Arab lands, blood transfusion, the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), and doctors training.

Charity bazaar

KUWAIT's Girls Club will organise a charitable bazaar depicting traditional and international handicrafts and dishes from April 1-4.

Mrs Najat Al Sultan, the head of the organisational committee, said that several embassies in Kuwait had agreed to participate, along with some local charitable societies and organisations.

She added that the committee will publish informational pamphlets and some information on countries participating.

The bazaar will be held under the patronage of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah and opened by the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed Al Sabah.

Scientific discussion

CAIRO, March 24. (KUNA): Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research Director-General Dr Ahmad Al Jassar met here earlier yesterday with Egyptian Minister of Scientific Researches Dr Adel Izz and the two discussed means of supporting scientific co-operation between their countries.

Izz told journalists following the meeting that he and Jassar have decided their countries would exchange information regarding scientific and technological research.

Kuwaiti envoy

TOKYO, March 24. (KUNA): Kuwaiti Ambassador to Japan Abdul Aziz Al Sharekh yesterday met with Japanese State Minister for Defence Affairs Kichiro Tazawa during which they exchanged points of view on bilateral relations.

KUNA learnt that Kazawa had hailed co-operation between Japan and Kuwait in various fields especially mutual efforts towards peace in the Gulf region and the world.

Opening session

KUWAIT, March 24. (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah attends the opening session of meetings for the upper management in ministries and public institutions at the Bayan Palace tomorrow evening.

HH will address the participants before hosting them to a dinner.

Indian exams

A PRESS release from the Indian embassy in Kuwait has said that Punjab University B.A. pass I, II, B.Com and M.A. examinations will be held in the embassy of India premises from 4th April, 1989 onwards at 0630-0930 and 1130-1430 hours. Candidates registered for the above exams should report to the embassy on the above dates.

Imposition of utility charges approved

Impetus to expand production base

A REPORT on methods to reduce the deficit in the state budget has been approved by the Higher Planning Council.

Among the various recommendations, the council approved the imposition of some charges on several services such as health, housing, electricity and expatriate manpower.

Fuad Mulla Hussain, the general secretary of the council said that the introduction of fees on some services is to deter the misuse of state services. The proposal aims at improving the quality and quantity of services, the official said.

He added that the new service charges to be implemented are not intended to cover the budget deficit in the short or medium term. The impetus is to expand the production base in the country,



increase and diversify the country's revenues and is intended to rationalise both public expenditure and consumption.

Hussain said that the country's rationalisation policy will not affect the government's development plans. The policy is also intended to prevent any increase in the state deficit budget which is presently around KD500 to 600 million.

The state is keen to encourage private investors to be more active in the country's economy by allocating the management of some sectors in a move intended to repatriate a major percentage of the large amount of dollars invested abroad.

The privatisation trend will contribute in no small measure towards reducing the state budget. Overall, it will relieve the government of the burden of managing business areas which are really private businesses.

However, before privatisation can be achieved in a big way, a comprehensive mechanism will have to be worked out.

A ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war last August and higher risks from fluctuating foreign exchange rates have also contributed to investors confidence and paved the way for the return of a part of funds invested abroad.

The Higher Council stated that the principle of recommendations and suggestions regarding methods of redressing the deficit in the budget stemmed from the development strategy.

Change food consumption habits, say nutritionists

KUWAIT, March 24. (KUNA): A scientific seminar on nutrition and its relationship to cancer, allergy and the human body's immune system, held at the Islamic Medicine Centre, wound up yesterday with an appeal to concerned health authorities to work towards changing food consuming habits in Kuwait.

The seminar stressed the importance of organising workshops between medical and nutrition employees to exchange views on nutrition problems in the country.

It also called for studying cooking methods in Kuwait and their impact on nutrition and food associated diseases.

Acting Health Ministry Undersecretary Ibrahim Al Mudaf hailed the outcome of the seminar, saying the widespread of allergy diseases necessitated avoiding their causes by curbing environment pollution and minimising the usage of preservatives and chemical additives.

Pakistan Day reception

PAKISTAN Ambassador to Kuwait Zahid Saeed receives the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Saud Mohammad Al Oasalmi at a reception hosted at his residence on Thursday on the occasion of Pakistan Day. A large number of diplomats, senior Kuwaiti officials and leading businessmen attended.

On Thursday morning, Pakistanis attended a flag-hoisting ceremony held at the Pakistan embassy premises. Zahid Saeed hoisted the national flag. (Photos by Javed Basra)

Indian embassy takes on responsibility of Quraish labourers

THE community relief committee that had set out to help the wageless Indian workers stranded in the desert wishes to thank all those individuals, institutions, associations and companies that contributed to the cause. Needless to say, these contributions greatly helped the workers from starvation. From March 24 onwards it is requested that the inflow of the contributions be stopped as the Indian embassy has agreed to shoulder the responsibility from that date onwards.

A sum of KD10,500 has been spent so far for the workers' food alone. The committee would never have been able to support the cause had it not been for the contributions of the Indian community. The full co-operation of the community and whole-hearted support of our volunteers and others have been highly appreciated.

Meanwhile, workers hope they can reach India before Ramadan starts. Their conditions at the camp are deteriorating steadily with the sudden changes of weather. The ultimate in their suffering is that for the sick workers there is no medical aid beyond a few bottles of cough syrup and panadol, provided by the relief committee.

Higher committee to follow up plans

KUWAIT's Ministry of Electricity and Water will form a higher committee to follow up on the water supply project from Iraq to Kuwait, a local newspaper has reported.

The committee will be chaired by Undersecretary Abdullah Al Munayes and will comprise the head of Water Department, the chief engineers and a number of assistant engineers at the ministry, the newspaper said.

It added that several subcommittees are to be formed which will undertake the project's implementation phases.

In a related development, the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources had conducted a comprehensive study for the setting up of new irrigation systems following the execution of this vital project.

Minister of Electricity and Water Dr Homoud Al Rqobah was quoted as saying that the water supply project from Iraq to Kuwait will cost about KD300 million.

Rqobah said that the project aims at providing Kuwait with 550 million gallons of water per day with 200 million gallon for irrigation and the rest for drinking.

He added that the water will be supplied through a pipe of 200km length and that the project will be carried out by a French company.

Vital

He described the water supply project as the synchronised electrical project with Iraq as vital and that it has been designed to boost the integration process between Arab countries and to meet the increasing demand for water and electricity.

Rqobah added that Iraq and Kuwait have agreed recently to set up a relevant committee for the follow-up of these two projects.

Hurd to visit Kuwait

LONDON, March 24. (KUNA) Home Secretary Douglas Hurd will leave here today for a week-long tour of the Gulf during which he will visit Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Bahrain, the Home Office announced here yesterday.

Hurd will first visit Saudi Arabia before going on to Kuwait and the other Gulf states for ministerial level talks, said a Home Office spokesman.

The main purpose of the talks will be to "strengthen co-operation" in a number of areas including security, drugs, organised crime and police training, said the Home Office official.

The spokesman was unable to immediately give full details of Hurd's travel plans, but said the UK minister would return to London on Monday, April 3.

The British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe will also be in the region next week, making a brief stop-over in Bahrain on Saturday, April 5, after visiting Qatar on the way back from talks in Pakistan and India.

Action Line

Can hotels in Kuwait arrange visas for foreign visitors?

J. Kitanovich
Salmiya

Hotels can arrange visit visas, but only for the hotel guests. After a guest books a room, a visa applicant should send a photocopy of his passport to the sales department of the hotel he has made his reservation with. A hotel takes between 10 days and three weeks to complete the visa formalities. The service is provided free of charge but fees of about KD7, imposed by the Immigration Department, will have to be borne by the applicant. Kuwait's hotels began sponsoring guests a year ago after the service had been introduced by hotels in Bahrain, the UAE and Oman.

What are the fees for new telephone connections — only for local calls and with an international line facility?

Nasreen Ahmed
Farwaniya

For local telephone connections, without an international direct dialling facility, a subscriber has to pay a total of KD105. The breakdown is as follows: KD30 — subscription; KD30 — installation charges; KD30 — security deposit (refundable on disconnection of a line) and KD15 for disconnecting the direct-dialling service for overseas calls.

For a subscription with an international line, a subscriber makes a deposit of KD500 with the Ministry of Communications or provides a bank guarantee; and pays an additional KD60, the cost of an annual subscription and installation charges.

The Department of Telephones, Ministry of Communications, does not charge for each local call made by a subscriber. But the subscription fee of KD30, paid at the start of a fiscal year (beginning July 1) covers local charges.

What are the incentives given to Kuwaitis working in the public sector?

Faisal A.
Hawalli

A spokesman of the Civil Service Commission said the employment rules stipulate many incentives for Kuwaitis. (1) Kuwaitis who have graduated from applied education and training institutes are engaged on grades higher than those prescribed by law for their educational qualifications or for the training courses they completed. (2) They get additional allowances and increments and encouragement allowances in many of the specialised posts they hold. (3) They are sent overseas for higher training and are given study leave with full pay plus an allowance. (4) The payment of social allowances for both the bachelor or the married employee and children's allowance are also given.

If you have a query, need clarification of rules pertaining to, for example, immigration or communication, or want to get in touch with someone and can't find an address, we'll try to help you find the answers. So, drop in a line to Action Line, Arab Times, PO Box 2270, 13023, Safat, Kuwait, or fax your questions to us on Tel: 4846905 or 4847495, or call 4813586 ext. 285. The column will appear every Saturday.

BAHRAIN DIGEST

New measures to boost Bahrain's finance sector

BAHRAIN is undertaking new measures in a bid to boost the island's financial sector, according to the Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA).

Efforts are underway to attract foreign investors, diversify national income and create more employment opportunities for nationals based on a comprehensive study made recently.

According to a report in a local Arabic daily there are also plans to encourage establishment of investment funds and to offer treasury bills to the public, not just banks.

Official BMA sources are quoted as saying that laws may be relaxed to allow offshore and investment banks to operate in local and foreign bonds.

Hypertension among Bahrainis

A STUDY has revealed that at least 20 per cent of people suffering from high blood pressure could be saved from death every year in Bahrain if their blood was checked and treated early.

According to the two-month study about 6.88 per cent of the island's total population suffer from hypertension. Based on the figure of around 400,000 about 27,552 people are said to be suffering from high blood pressure.

Dr Fawzi Amin, chief of medical staff for primary health care, said 71 per cent of people suffering from the disease are afflicted with mild cases, with the low reading of blood pressure shown at 95-104. He added that if all of them are treated only 231 will die, if not the number of deaths will be 289.

Negligence kills baby

By Salem Al Wawan

NEGLIGENCE was the sole cause of the tragic death of a new-born baby, according to the father.

The man's statement asserts that he rushed his wife at 6.00 am on March 21 to Salwa clinic after the unexpected birth of the baby.

Unfortunately, his pleas to the nurse on duty were flatly turned down with the recommendation that he rush his wife to the Rumaithiya clinic. On arrival at the clinic, he was surprised to learn that the clinic could not provide basic delivery services. The nurse on duty at this clinic recommended that the father contact the police station to assist in getting the patient to the Hawalli polyclinic.

Bad shape

By this time, the child died, leaving the mother in a very bad shape.

However, the father said that the ambulance did come — at 8.00 am, one and a half hour later, by which time he had already come back from Sulaibikhat after burying his child.

1,834 fires in 1988: Mansouri

THERE were 1,834 fires and 533 rescue operations in Kuwait last year, according to Jasssem Al Mansouri, deputy director of the fire fighting division at Kuwait's Fire Department.

Speaking at a seminar recently organised by the Kuwait Society for Research and Studies, the official said that about 977 residential fires, 126 fires in commercial areas and 468 in government installations were attended to by personnel of the fire department.

Rescue operations during 1988, ranged from elevator incidents, traffic accidents and rescue operations at sea, the official said.

He added that the reasons for various fires are attributed to technical defects, electrical short-circuits and gas and fuel leakage. He commented that about 111 fires are attributed to discarding unstubbed cigarettes.

Ministry decision

A NEW organisational decision to be issued by Kuwait's Ministry of Communications is designed to transfer a number of department directors who have served more than five years in the office to the consultative department at the ministry, the daily Al Seyassah reported.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THE golden age only comes to men when they have forgotten gold — G.K. Chesterton, English author, (1874-1936).

OPINION

Iraq and Egypt: both important

THE Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz today begins his visit to two important Arab capitals — Baghdad and Cairo.

The monarch who experienced the ravages of the eight-year Iran-Iraq war visits Baghdad to offer his congratulations on Iraq's victory over a power that did not only aim at capturing Baghdad, but considered it a passage to other Arab capitals.

King Fahd visits Baghdad after a lapse of 20 years. Since his last visit Baghdad has witnessed radical changes.

The official is certainly proud of the Arab Muslim Baghdad, whose people defended their borders and sovereignty and refused that their country be used as a passage to other Arab states.

After his visit to Baghdad, the capital of Abbasides and the capital of the ambitious man, Saddam Hussein, King Fahd travels to Egypt. The founder of the Saudi kingdom and the leader of the Arab peninsula, the late King Abdul Aziz told his sons to always be with Egypt as it represents the human and geographic depth of the Arab world.

The meeting between Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak and the Saudi king as also the meeting with Saddam in Baghdad will be based on constructive co-operation and will be bereft of early dreams. The meeting is designed to speed the merging of Arab world interests.

The Arab world now needs to talk with the rest of the world as one politically united body and not through several parties.

Iraq and Egypt are both very important to Saudi Arabia and to the rest of the GCC states which will be constantly informed of developments of the meeting.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Scandal in Sweden

Bugging row

By Alan Elsner

STOCKHOLM, (Reuters): Disclosures on the bugging or attempted bugging of senior politicians has exploded into a major scandal in Sweden.

It has undermined already rocky relations between the ruling Social Democratic Party and Sweden's secret police force, SAPO. Foreign Minister Sten Andersson said last week he was sure that he was a victim of illegal electronic surveillance when he was Social Democratic general secretary in the 1970s.

"I know I have been bugged," he told a shocked nation. Then, the government said it had uncovered a plot to bug Deputy Foreign Minister Pierre Schori last year in connection with the hunt for the murderer of Prime Minister Olof Palme.

"This is damnable. It is absolutely terrible that things should have come to this," said a visibly-shaken Schori. Another senior Social Democrat displayed on television documents leaked to him by a SAPO member which he said proved illegal surveillance of party members by the secret police in the early 1970s.

The bugging revelations began after it became known last year that the then Justice Minister, Anna-Greta Leijon, authorised a secret probe into the murder of Palme, who was killed by a lone gunman on Feb 28, 1986, while walking home from the cinema with his wife.

The covert inquiry collapsed when an investigator was caught trying to smuggle illegal eavesdropping equipment into Sweden. Leijon was forced to resign.

An all-party parliamentary committee investigating the affair quickly established that the intended surveillance targets were Kurdish immigrants to Sweden suspected of involvement in the Palme killing. But then new information began to emerge.

A senior state prosecutor told the committee earlier this month that not only Kurds had been bugged. Senior politicians had also been bugged and the surveillance had started as long ago as the early 1970s. A bevy of left-wing politicians came forward to tell of their suspicions.

Social Democratic parliamentarian and lawyer Hans Goran Franck, who has represented Kurdish refugees in Sweden, said his office was broken into earlier this month, just after the latest bugging allegations emerged.

Complain

The thief or thieves searched the office, rifled through filing cabinets but ignored money lying around and took nothing. Franck believes they entered to remove bugging equipment.

Communist Party leader Lars Werner, whose group supports the minority Social Democratic government in Parliament, said he had complained to the police several years ago of suspected eavesdropping but had got no results.

His party colleague Inga Lantz told how she had once picked up the telephone in her office in Parliament and heard a tape of a conversation with her mother being played back over the line.

Mutual suspicion between SAPO and the Social Democrats is nothing new. According to the testimony of former operatives, some members of the security force appeared to believe that the ruling party was soft on communism.

For their part, leading Social Democrats including Andersson have made little secret of their belief that SAPO had been lax in failing to protect Palme, whether through incompetence or by design.

Asked last year whether he trusted SAPO, Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson told Parliament that he believed in the loyalty of all state organisations until conclusive evidence to the contrary was brought against them — hardly a ringing declaration of confidence.

Civil Administration Minister Bengt Johansson, who disclosed the alleged plot to bug Schori, said the deputy minister appeared to have been a target because he once met a Kurdish woman who later became a suspect of the Palme assassination.

Police were initially convinced that Palme was victim of a political conspiracy and concentrated their inquiries on left-wing Kurds in Sweden.

But the Kurdish theory later fell apart and police are currently holding a suspected murderer a 41-year-old Swede with a long criminal record.

Johansson said: "I have gone through material provided to me by the government prosecutor and can say that all allegations linking Pierre Schori to terrorism are false."

Schori was one of Palme's closest aides and is considered a key figure in Swedish foreign policy relating to Third World questions and one of his country's foremost diplomats.

"I have worked with Pierre Schori for 25 years and I trust his loyalty 100 per cent," said Andersson.

After three years of almost constant scandals surrounding the Palme murder, Swedes are wondering what will come next.

Jihan sees the beginning of Sadat's redemption

Joy and sorrow indecade of peace

By Jeffrey Bartholet

CAIRO, (Reuters): Tears of joy streamed down Jihan Sadat's face 10 years ago on Sunday as her husband Anwar became the first and only Arab leader to make peace with Israel.

Two years later her face went blank with horror as she saw him gunned down by Muslim extremists at a military parade.

Now she sees the beginning of his redemption. "Ten years ago, when my husband started the peace process, all the Arabs were against him and the PLO was just threatening him and accusing him of being a traitor," said the former first lady, sitting in the living room of her Nile-side mansion.

"Sadat told me something then and told it to others: 'Not before 10 years will the PLO realise what I have done — not before 10 years' — and he was right."

Jihan, a bold woman with fair complexion and piercing green eyes, was a controversial in Egypt as her husband. Critics accused her of pulling policy strings from behind the scenes.

Measures

She led a fight for what many saw as inappropriate and Western-style measures for women's rights and kept a right-profile in public affairs uncommon for an Arab woman.

One of her most controversial moments came when former US President Jimmy Carter, forgetting the constraints on a Muslim woman, kissed her as she was boarding a plane for home.

"It caused me big trouble," she said. "But that was in front of my husband, there was nothing wrong with this... what would you like to do? Give him a knock-out punch?"

Jihan said she preferred to ignore past critics and remained hopeful for the future. She thought PLO chairman Yasser Arafat was ready to follow the same path he refused a decade ago.

Last year, Arafat recognised Israel and renounced terrorism. He said recently he was ready to go to Israel to talk peace.

"I think my husband would be very happy with what's going on," said Jihan, who splits her time between Egypt and the United States, where she lectures part-time at the University of Maryland.

"I believe Arafat was a man for peace, but he was



Jihan Sadat sits in the garden of her mansion with her grandson Hussein.

under pressure and he was not a personality like Sadat to overcome all these difficulties... he had so many factions within the PLO, he couldn't manoeuvre easily," she said.

Arafat was sitting in the Egyptian Parliament when Sadat stunned the world, including his own wife, by announcing on Nov 9, 1977, his readiness to go to occupied Jerusalem.

There was disapproval even in Egypt, where Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy resigned in protest. Critics argued that Sadat needed Arab consensus to achieve real peace and should not have rushed off on a one-man crusade.

Many Egyptians saw the move as a symptom of Sadat's vanity, which Jihan disputes. His aloof style — he called Egyptians his sons and daughters — irritated many people.

Calm

"He was always calm, always thinking, he wasn't that kind of person you could talk to easily unless you knew him well," said Jihan.

The Israeli visit led to the Camp David accord in 1978, which provided an outline for broad Middle East peace — a plan that was never fulfilled by the Arabs or Israel.

Most Palestinians felt betrayed by Sadat and condemned him for taking unilateral steps affecting their fate.

On March 26, 1979, Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin signed a treaty to prevent a fifth war between their two countries. Both sides have upheld the treaty despite outside pressure and most Arab states have restored relations with Egypt, broken over the pact in 1979.

On the day in Washington the treaty was signed, Jihan sat with other Egyptian and Israeli dignitaries to hear statements by Carter, Sadat and Begin.

"My heart was beating, my tears were pouring and it was as if I were in a dream for something, I was talking to myself you know, saying is it true Jihan, what you are seeing?"

"All of us were excited, all of us were happy and after the three leaders made their speeches, we were hugging and kissing each other."

Others, especially Arab leaders, were angry. Jihan asked her husband what he would do about his former allies.

"Her said 'Jihan, don't worry — I have made peace now with Israel and the Arabs are my family — after they see that Israel has kept its word and Sinai is back to Egypt, they will understand.'"

In the same month as the 10th anniversary of the peace treaty, Israel returned the 700-metre Tabah beach, the last sliver of Egyptian land occupied since the 1967 war.

"Sadat's legacy is becoming the call of the day now," said Jihan.

Press review

No more concessions

KUWAIT, (KUNA): The daily Al Rai Al Aam has warned the PLO against making further concessions to the United States in their dialogue indicating that PLO-US direct talks are just in the talk-off stage.

Commenting editorially on the second round of formal talks held in Tunis between PLO and US negotiators, the paper referred in particular to remarks attributed to PLO chairman's adviser Bassam Abu Sharif in which he said the PLO would accept the deployment of US forces in the Israeli-occupied territories for a transitional period.

He was also quoted as telling reporters before the opening of PLO-US round of direct talks that the organisation would further accept US and Soviet sponsorship of peace talks.

"The paper expressed disapproval to Abu Sharif's remarks and said they were categorically contradicting the principles contained in the political declaration announced by the PNC in Algeria last November."

Al Rai Al Aam pointed out that Abu Sharif's statements constitute a change in the PLO's previous position and do not go in line with "Arab common understanding" for the procedures that must be followed to reach a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Those remarks, which were in fact new concessions under new concepts, meant there was no need for convening the proposed international Mideast peace conference," the paper said.

"We should not have to expect a US role capable of forging a substantive change in the announced Israeli convictions," the daily warned, and stated that the American administration was blatantly echoing Israeli position.

"Thus, we must be cautious as the Americans are approaching the Palestinian cause carefully, we must not make any further concessions as the PLO-US dialogue is just at the starting point," Al Rai Al Aam said.

Some reason for hope

WASHINGTON, (KUNA): The Christian Science Monitor has said that despite the claim that no progress has taken place in the Middle East 10 years after the Camp David agreement, things, in fact, have changed, and now there are new opportunities for peace which must be seized by all the parties concerned.

The paper said in an editorial that the logical and necessary next step is "for the Israeli government to talk with PLO officials or with their representatives in the occupied territories."

"Both Shamir and Arafat need to find ways to lessen the violence so that the voices of those who are fearful on both sides can be heard."

Among the positive developments in the region seen by the Monitor is the fact that "although the Israeli government remains as intransigent as ever, the mood in Israel seems to be shifting and most Israelis are now willing to talk to the PLO..."

Other positive signs cited by the Monitor include: the resolutions of the PNC and the PLO recognition of Israel and 242 and 338, the dialogue now underway between the US and the PLO, and the fact that the Soviet Union now seems more willing and able to play a constructive role in the region.

"Taken together, these changes affecting all the key players offer at least some reason for hope," the paper concluded.

King Fahd's significant visit

Mideast diplomacy

By John Fullerton

CAIRO, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia's King Fahd plunges into the heart of Middle East politics and diplomacy when he sets out tomorrow for a six-day visit to Iraq and Egypt.

The trip — his first as monarch to the two countries — takes on particular significance at a time of Egypt's reintegration into the Arab world and the emergence of a Baghdad-Cairo diplomatic and economic axis.

Saudi Arabia was a strong supporter of Iraq during its eight-year war with Iran.

An Arab diplomat in Baghdad said the main topics there would be the situation in the Gulf and the deadlock in peace talks since last August's ceasefire in the war with Iran.

King Fahd and Iraq's President Saddam Hussein were also expected to discuss newly emergent economic blocs on the region, and possibly Saudi efforts to mediate between Iraq and its long-time foe, neighbouring Syria.

For Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, the King's backing will provide welcome diplomatic clout when Mubarak visits Washington next month to discuss the Middle East with the new Bush administration.

"The visit to Egypt should help Mubarak

inject more meaning into his relations with Washington in terms of Middle East peace," said Salama Ahmed Salama, managing editor of Egypt's semi-official Al-Ahram newspaper.

"Radical Arab states like Syria and Libya won't like it."

Mubarak is expected to urge President George Bush to broker an early international peace conference with the participation of the PLO.

In Amman, officials said Jordan's King Hussein will visit Cairo tomorrow to coordinate policy with Mubarak. Both leaders have urged Israel to talk directly to the PLO to resolve the 40-year-long Arab-Israeli conflict.

King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir are also due to visit Washington in the coming weeks.

Ostracised by most Arab states after signing its peace treaty with Israel 10 years ago on Sunday, Egypt has patiently clawed its way back to the forefront of regional diplomacy.

King Fahd's visit is interpreted by political analysts in Cairo as giving the Saudi stamp of approval for Egypt's emergence after a decade in the Arab wilderness.

The trip has been postponed several times over the past two years, however, and some analysts say this has dented Egyptian enthu-

siatism for their royal visitor.

"Egyptians would like Gulf Arabs to fund development to lessen (Cairo's) dependence on the West," said political observer Saad Eddin Ibrahim.

Some analysts believed King Fahd's tour represented a move by Riyadh for a role in an emerging Cairo-Baghdad axis.

King Fahd was likely to discuss the ACC's role and its relations with the Gulf Co-operation Council, an eight-year-old defence and economic grouping of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and North Yemen recently created a new economic bloc, the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC).

Both Mubarak and Saddam have backed PLO's diplomacy aimed at securing an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Egyptian analysts said talks between King Fahd and Mubarak were also likely to focus on Egypt's own economic ills.

"It should be an ideal relationship," said Defence specialist Mohammed Abdel Monem in reference to Egypt's efforts to build up a regional arms industry.

"We have the expertise and the workforce and they have the money."

Row over Rushdie may lead to dialogue

By David E. Anderson

WASHINGTON, (UPI): Fundamentalist Muslims, outraged by Salman Rushdie's book *The Satanic Verses*, have rioted, destroyed property, died and called for the death of the author.

The Muslim reaction was quickly condemned by Western intellectuals, politicians and church leaders even as they struggled to understand the offence Muslims felt and that generated such a deadly response.

Among the first reactions to the furor was that of the communications unit of the National Council of Churches, which denounced the threats — first and most forcefully articulated by Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini —

against Rushdie's life.

At the same time, the council, which has pioneered in efforts to improve relations among Christian and Muslim communities in both the United States and throughout the world, hopes the affair will open new avenues of dialogue between the two faith groups and deepen understandings between both Christians and Muslims of the values and traditions that shape their religious views.

The council's office on Christian-Muslim relations, has taken the lead in that effort by both commenting on the issues raised by Rushdie's book and the Ayatollah's extremist response, and putting together a packet of material for church groups and

other interested people to study.

In its statement, the office's executive committee leans over backward in an effort to establish some balance, expressing its "deep sympathy" with Muslim communities who, it says, "have been insulted and their faith offended" by the book.

"Offence to the religious beliefs and sensitivities of the followers of Islam — or any religion — should be viewed as seriously as offence against the religious beliefs and sensitivities of Christians," the statement said.

At the same time, echoing the communications unit, the committee statement reaffirmed its commitment to freedom of thought.

"The answer to controversial speech is not enforced silence but more speech that is carefully considered," it said. "Specifically, we abhor threats and counter-threats of violence and acts of violence against persons and institutions."

While the implication is clear, a reader might wish the committee had had the courage to name the Ayatollah by name, whose threats are at least as offensive of Western sensibilities as Rushdie's book.

The 10-item packet put together by the committee is extremely useful for groups who might want to explore the incident — and issues in Christian-Muslim relations — in greater depth.

Islamic protests start to rattle Turkish establishment

By Hugh Pope

ISTANBUL, (Reuters): Pro-Islamic demonstrations swept Turkish cities this month, prompting the question — does an Islamic revival threaten the secular republic of Turkey?

The protests, sparked by anger at Salman Rushdie's book *The Satanic Verses*, were fuelled by a ban this month on women wearing Islamic headscarves at universities.

Hundreds of black-clad women and bearded men, braving riot police and arrests, marched repeatedly in several cities after Friday prayers shouting "Allah-o-Akbar" (God is Great).

"An Islamic movement is on the rise," said a diplomat from the European Economic Community (EEC), which Turkey has applied to join.

"But the really interesting question is, where is the movement going?" he added.

The militant Muslim fundamentalism seen in the demonstrations was just one current among several competing to dominate Turkey's Islamic movement.

An Islamic revolution on the Iranian model seems unlikely as there is no single

charismatic leader to unite opposition and the Turkish Sunni Muslim mainstream is basically pro-government.

But, 65 years after revolutionary secularists led by Kemal Ataturk abolished the Ottoman Islamic caliphate, the divisive potential of Islam in Turkey remains high.

"If the Islamic movement is left alone, it will stay quiet. But if any side tries to make an issue of it, it could be dangerous," said Binnaz Toprak, a Bosphorus University politics professor specialising in Islamic issues.

Housing Minister Safa Giray said the country would split down the middle if a referendum were held on the university headscarf ban, as suggested by some government ministers.

The Constitutional Court, the highest judicial body, annulled on March 7 a parliamentary bill which allowed women to wear Muslim-style headscarves on campuses.

Differences over Islam could also provoke a split in Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's Motherland Party, which includes both liberal free-marketeers and the pro-Islamic right.

Ozal's most popular vote-winner, Istanbul Mayor Bedrettin Dalan, has made clear he is thinking of setting up a new party with secularism as a major rallying cry. President Kenan Evren, military chiefs and other pillars of the secularist establishment have voiced worries about the Islamic unrest.

But almost all commentators say that any growth in the strength of Islam in Turkey is partially due to the 1980-83 period of military rule under Evren, a former general.

The 1982 constitution imposed severe restrictions on left-wing activities and introduced compulsory teaching of Islam at school for the first time.

A trend of Islamification of society and the bureaucracy has accelerated under Ozal's government, with critics saying that Islamic "tarikat" brotherhoods are increasingly powerful.

Budget and staff allocations to the State Religious Affairs Directorate, which runs Turkey's 60,000 mosques, have grown faster than almost any other government department.

The number of state secondary schools with a heavy Islamic curriculum to train mosque prayer leaders has multiplied,

and they now educate 13 per cent of all secondary school students.

Iran has criticised the ban on headscarves at campuses, and Turkey has in turn warned Iran not to meddle in its affairs.

But diplomats said foreign involvement in the issue in Turkey was slight.

Saudi Arabia backs its vision of Islam through Islamic banks and cultural associations.

Newspapers linked a covert war between Islamic hardliners and moderates to the mysterious murder this month of a liberal Istanbul prayer leader as he came down from his minaret.

But violence is unusual. Islam in Turkey ranges from the harmlessly medieval to the colourfully unorthodox.

In the Black Sea mountains, sick peasants queue for days at a mediaeval Islamic shrine to be chained hand and foot to columns in the hope that their illness will be cured.

In Istanbul, progressive groups co-exist with rigidly fundamentalist thinking in quarters where Quran schools look

like ports and some women wear black head-to-toe coverings.

Minority sects range from a few Shiites Azeris in northeast Turkey to the Alevis, an independent-minded, heterodox Shiite sect which may number more than 10 million people.

Islam has its main political impact in cities where mosque-goers are dominated by lower middle-class tradesmen.

But the share of the vote won by overtly Islamic fundamentalist parties peaked at about 11 per cent in the early 1970s. It is now around six per cent and declining.

Even during the Ottoman period, when Istanbul was a major centre of the Islamic world, Islamic law was sidelined by the sultan's law. Last year an Ankara University poll found only eight per cent of Turks wanted Islamic law.

The words of the prime minister's wife seemed to apply to many Turks when she vowed this month that religious extremists would be confronted.

"We are both a Muslim country and secular country," said Semra Ozal, who publicly disobeys Islam's ban on drinking alcohol. "I have been a pilgrim to Makkah, but I drink what I drink."

كندا ١٠٠٠٠٠

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Saudis set course for economic stability

DUBAI, March 24, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia has set the course for economic stability after years of struggling against weak oil prices and financial crises, economists in the Gulf region said.

"They made the adjustments that a strong government should make to get the economy back on line," said a senior Western diplomat who specialises in economic matters.

"I shudder to think what would happen if Western governments were presented with the same policy choices," added the diplomat, who declined to be identified.

A healthier Saudi economy was expected to bring wider benefits from political stability and security to other states in the six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) alliance.

Saudi Arabia's share of the GCC economic area in terms of total domestic output value has dropped from 76 per cent in 1981

to around 55 per cent, government figures show.

But the kingdom, with its close US ties and role as guardian of Islam, remains the last rock of security to which the smaller GCC states look in times of uncertainty, diplomats said.

The forecasts of economic well-being overturned earlier speculation that Saudi Arabia had set itself optimistic revenue targets in an outline 1989 budget released in January and in a statement on economic policy by King Fahd.

But the economists said a closer look at the budget figures and prospects for oil prices showed that planned revenues could well be underestimated.

The 1989 outline budget, at a rate of 3.75 riyals to the dollar, called for no change in expenditure of \$37.6 billion and a 10 per cent rise in revenues to 30.9 billion. The deficit would be financed through government bonds.

King Fahd cleared away uncertainties over revenue by saying last year there would be no spending cuts which would affect the public "such as salaries, fees and aid."

This was interpreted to mean that there would be no rise in taxes, tariffs or agricultural subsidies, all of which had caused domestic concern. He also ruled out a devaluation of the riyal.

The 1989 outline gave no breakdown for oil and non-oil income, but, if non-oil revenues do not rise above the \$8.5 billion of last year, oil income would have to provide \$22.4 billion.

The economists estimated that non-oil income could easily be raised by 10 per cent through the large semi-government industrial sector or by more efficient tax collection.

"For example, if you have a neon light outside your shop, that is a taxable item,"

said a Saudi-based bank economist.

The Saudi finance ministry is keeping a very close eye on spending, they said.

"The budget is a document under negotiation. The ministry is keeping an almost cheque by cheque watch on spending," said the diplomat specialising in economic matters.

Boom

A Bahrain banker said the Saudi economy was also helped because the construction boom of the 1970s, painfully sustained through some heavy deficit years in the early 1980s, was nearing an end.

"The work there is mainly operations and maintenance related now," said a British quantity surveyor with Saudi business.

The Saudi Arabian monetary authority estimated last year's nominal growth rate at 4.3 per cent, and 1.6 per cent for the non-oil sector, with a mild upturn in the 1.2 per cent annual inflation rate, the first rise for five years.

UAE and Austria seek better economic ties

Vienna has vital role to play

ABU DHABI, March 24, (OPECNA): Austrian President Kurt Waldheim left Abu Dhabi on Wednesday, ending a four-day visit to the United Arab Emirates, during which both sides pledged to boost their economic and trade relations.

Waldheim told reporters before his departure that his talks with UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan and other leaders had focused on economic co-operation, given Austria's highly industrialised economy and the UAE's vast oil and financial resources.

He said Austria offered its expertise in building water desalination plants, participating in the construction sector and supplying machinery.

Waldheim was accompanied by his minister of public economy and transport and his minister of state for finance, as well as a 25-member trade delegation.

Austrian officials at a business meeting with the Abu Dhabi

Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday urged the Gulf country to take advantage of Austria's position as a gateway to Eastern Europe.

A banking official from Austria said with the opening up of markets in Eastern Europe, world-wide interest in Austria's economy was growing.

"We see a great role for Austria to play," sources at the meeting quoted the official as saying.

Shabeeb Mohammed Hilal Al Dhaheri, second vice-president of the chamber, expressed interest in setting up joint ventures either in the UAE or Austria, the sources said.

The chamber presented a report to the Austrian side, pinpointing six key areas of joint co-operation.

The areas included agriculture, mining, manufacture of electrical parts, petrochemicals and gas liquefaction, and production of chemicals and medicines.

Dollar mostly higher in quiet trade

LONDON, March 24, (AP): The dollar was marginally higher against most other major currencies in extremely quiet pre-Easter trading in Europe late today.

Gold and silver bullion markets in London, Zurich and Hong Kong were closed.

Market players said trading throughout the foreign exchange market was practically non-existent during the morning. Most leading European financial centres were closed for Good Friday. They reopen on Tuesday.

"Practically nothing is happening. I would say," said the chief dealer at a West German bank operating in Italy.

Traders said they also expected next week's trading volume to remain relatively light ahead of the end of the Japanese financial year March 31.

The dollar gained against the British pound. It cost \$1.7190 to buy one pound, cheaper than \$1.7205 late Thursday.

Other late dollar rates in Europe, compared with late Thursday:

— 1.8733 West German marks, up from 1.8720
— 1.6252 Swiss francs, down from 1.6260
— 6.3350 French francs, up from 6.335
— 2.1138 Dutch guilders, up from 2.1025
— 1.3760 Italian lire, up from 1.370.12
— 1.1895 Canadian dollars, up from 1.1894.

In Tokyo, where trading ends before Europe's business day begins, the dollar rose 0.39 yen to a closing 131.27 yen.

Spending rises

Strong gain in US personal income

WASHINGTON, March 24, (AP): Americans' personal income increased a strong 1 per cent in February while spending rose at half that pace, as people diverted more of their earnings into savings, the government reported today.

The Commerce Department said income rose to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$4.32 trillion last month, following a robust revised gain of 1.7 per cent in January.

Consumer spending, meanwhile, rose 0.5 per cent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$3.38 trillion in February after increasing a revised 0.4 per cent in January.

Most of the gain in personal consumption expenditures, which include virtually all consumer spending except interest payments on debt, came in increased spending for services. Analysts said that was partly a reflection of an upturn in heating bills last month after January's mild weather.

Spending on services rose 1 per cent last month, while purchases of non-durable goods edged up 0.1 per cent and spending on durable goods declined 0.3 per cent, held back in part by slow car sales.

Most analysts expect gains in income and spending to slow this year in response to a campaign by the Federal Reserve Board to nudge up interest rates and relieve inflationary pressures on the economy.

IBM develops prototype flat colour screen

NEW YORK, March 24, (AP): International Business Machines Corp. said yesterday it and Toshiba Corp. have developed a prototype colour flat-panel display for computers that is larger and clearer than any demonstrated so far.

The screen is a scaled-up version of the liquid crystal display used in high-quality pocket-size portable televisions, IBM said.

The company said it intends to use the screens on laptop computers but did not say when they might reach the market.

The screen has almost 400,000 picture elements arranged in a 720-by-550 array, IBM said. Each element is associated with four dots: red, green, blue and white.

Amman seeks IMF help

Jordan shelves plans to buy Tornado from UK

AMMAN, March 24, (Reuters): Jordan, which is seeking IMF help for its financial problems, said yesterday it had shelved plans to buy Tornado fighter aircraft from Britain.

Prime Minister Zeid Al Rifa'i, who is also defence minister, told Reuters the \$400-million (\$690-million) deal had been postponed until Jordan's finances improved.

"We recently informed the British government that we would like to postpone negotiations on the purchase of the Tornados due to the current financial situation we are facing," he said. "The British government understood and accepted."

The decision reflects a financial crisis which has forced Jordan to seek assistance from the International Monetary Fund.

Problems An advance IMF team has been in Amman for a week preparing for high-level talks on March 27 and 28 when Jordan is expected to ask formally for a standby credit and help with rescheduling part of its \$6-billion civil and military foreign debt.

Jordan's problems stem from a rise in debt repayments coinciding with a drop in the Arab aid

and remittances from Jordanians working abroad which have in the past helped to cover its budget and balance of payments deficits.

Rifa'i said Jordan was proceeding with a contract signed last year for 12 French-built Mirage 2000 jets, but had not yet taken up an option to buy eight more.

He dismissed as nonsense allegations in Britain's Observer newspaper that commissions might have been paid to secure the Tornado deal, which was signed in September.

"It's stupid to talk of commissions being paid because there is no deal," he said. "The Jordanian government was negotiating as with any other deal with the Defence Department in the UK. Our law forbids the purchase of arms through agents and no commissions are ever paid."

The Observer said last Sunday that Jordan was paying an inflated price for the Anglo-German fighter-bombers and that the deal had created a political row between London and Bonn.

It said it did not need the arms and could not afford them.

"Yet Jordan has been encouraged into a deal in which,

on the published figures, she is paying twice what she ought to for the arms — presumably to cover commissions and other sales payments," the report said.

Rifa'i said the Tornado deal would have cost about £400 million for the aircraft, munitions, spare parts and training programmes.

Jordan turned to European suppliers to re-equip its Air Force and bought some Soviet anti-aircraft equipment after the US Congress blocked a \$1.9-billion sale of F-16s and other weapons in early 1986.

In London, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said in reply to a parliamentary question that she had discussed the possible sale of eight Tornados with King Hussein several times, most recently 10 days ago.

Thatcher said Jordan "had informed us that they would like to postpone further negotiations on the sale until more favourable circumstances prevail. This has been agreed."

A Defence Ministry spokeswoman, asked how Britain viewed Jordan's decision, told Reuters: "It's all been agreed by both sides that we are reasonably happy with the situation."

'Third World debt crisis to get priority at summit'

PARIS, March 24, (AP): President Francois Mitterrand said yesterday solving the Third World debt crisis will get priority at the summit of the seven industrialised democracies in Paris in mid-July.

Mitterrand said he would try to bring the views of the creditor countries on the debt issue closer together now that France, Japan and the United States have put forward debt solution plans.

Mitterrand spoke at a luncheon at the Elysee Palace for 18 Latin American finance ministers and members of the board of governors of the 44-nation Inter-American Bank for Development.

The bank has just ended its annual conference in Amsterdam, where agreement was reached on a new capital increase proposal, ending a three-year dispute between the United States and the bank's Latin American and Caribbean members.

"We have to go beyond the measures adopted" at last year's Group of Seven summit in Toronto, Mitterrand said. The leaders of the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada meet every year to discuss economic and political issues.

Proposal

He referred to a proposal he made at the United Nations on Sept. 29 to create a special multinational fund to guarantee the debt service payments due commercial banks on debt instruments that would be created in whole or in part in exchange for outstanding commercial debt.

The French proposal also involves a special issue of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), the paper currency that the International Monetary Fund uses in its transactions with its member governments.

But, Mitterrand said, this was not the only solution and mentioned possible roles for the World Bank, regional development banks and public and private financial institutions.

Mitterrand said France's insistence on a solution was in part responsible for the debt plans that Japan announced last fall and the United States put forward last week after bloody riots in Venezuela left hundreds dead and threatened to disrupt the Caracas government's economic austerity programme.

Mitterrand said the increasing gap between rich and poor countries constituted "the biggest threat facing humanity." If we can control nuclear weapons, he said, "we cannot control the anger and the disorder caused by misery and hunger."

G N P rises

Pace of US economic growth quickens

WASHINGTON, March 24, (Reuters): The US economy grew at a 2.4 per cent annual rate in the final three months of 1988, significantly faster than the 2.0 per cent rate previously estimated, the government said yesterday.

Government spending and business investment in new equipment were stronger than previously estimated, accounting for the upward revision, the Commerce Department said.

As a result, the gross national product (GNP) — the total output of goods and services — rose 3.9 per cent for all of last year instead of the previously reported 3.8 per cent.

As previously reported, the department said economic growth was reduced by about 1.1 percentage points in the fourth quarter of 1988 by crop and livestock losses stemming from last summer's drought. Fourth quarter GNP would have grown at a 3.5 per cent rate but for the drought.

Because of a statistical slingshot effect related to last year's drought losses, the economy will get a growth rate boost of more than two percentage points in the first quarter of this year, which the government will report next month. But economists generally expect the nonfarm economy to slow this year.

Deficit The trade deficit, after adjusting for inflation, actually worsened at an \$11.5-billion annual rate in the fourth quarter, more than the previously reported 9.4 billion, as imports were larger than estimated and exports were smaller.

The key inflation gauges tied to the GNP were not revised from their previously reported levels on February 28. The GNP implicit price deflator rose at a 5.3 per cent annual rate in the fourth quarter of 1988, while the fixed weights index rose at a 4.2 per

cent pace.

Business investment in new plant and equipment fell in the fourth quarter at a 2.9 per cent rate instead of the previously estimated 4.6 per cent decline, while government spending rose at an 11.9 per cent pace instead of 9.8 per cent, the department said.

Consumer spending, which makes up nearly two-thirds of total GNP, rose at a 3.5 per cent annual rate between October and December, the same as previously estimated.

Record The economy has been expanding for more than six years, a peacetime record, but economists predict it will slow to a more modest rate of growth in the second half of the year.

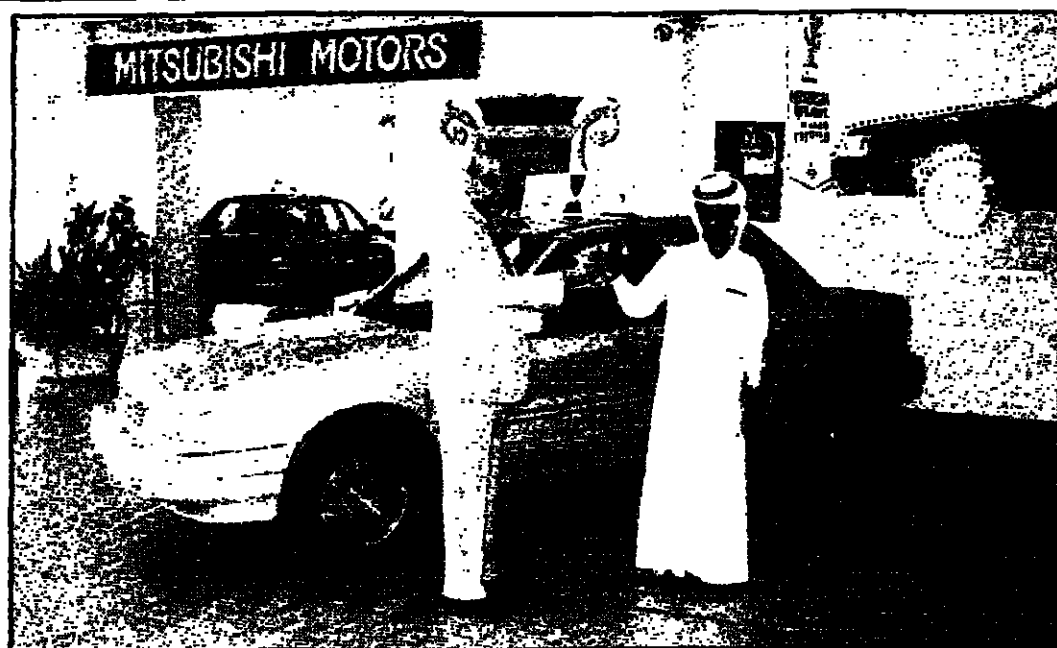
In recent months it has already shown signs of slowing as durable goods orders, retail sales, imports, housing starts and the operating rates of manufacturing industries all declined, while industrial output was flat.

The slowdown, if sustained, follows a year-long push by the Federal Reserve Board to raise interest rates gradually to restrain inflation by dampening business activity.

Fed chairman Alan Greenspan said on Wednesday there was a significant lag between the time the Fed raised interest rates and the impact that action had on the economy.

Some economists have said the interest rate increases could push the economy into a recession, but Greenspan defended the Central Bank's credit-tightening policy.

"Our job is to suppress inflationary forces that would destabilize the economy," Greenspan told a House Banking Subcommittee. "To the extent that we can do that, we can prolong the recovery through this year and well beyond."



Car of the Year prize

The big winner at the February draw of 'Shop, Save and Win' promotion organised by T.S.C. was Nasser Jawad Al Arabash. The first prize was the 'Car of the Year' Mitsubishi Galant donated by Maseelah Trading Co. Picture shows D.R. Mirchandani (left) Dy. Managing Director of Al Mulla Group, handing over the keys of a 1989 Mitsubishi Galant to Hassan Saeed Al Bahsani who received it on behalf of the winner at M.T.C. showroom.

"I am the resurrection and the life, he that believes in me though he die yet shall he live."

The Shammass family announces with great sorrow the passing away of
Habib Ya'coub Shammass
on Thursday March 23, 1989

The funeral service will take place on Saturday, March 25, at 3 pm, at the National Evangelical Church, Kuwait.

Condolences will be accepted at the residence of his brother Sami Shammass

Adaliya Block 3, St. 36
Res. No. 36 (for men) and at the deceased's residence in Keifan Block 7, Andalus St. Res No. 14
starting Sunday, March 26, for 3 days.

LONDON
(Beta Stocks)

NEW YORK

World Indices

London Stock Market Report

London Gold

London Money Market

Foreign Exchange

Morgan Stanley Capital International Indices

Advertising in the Financial Pages?

Arab Times Advertising Department 4816326/7.

Wall Street Statistics "Composite"

NYSE LARGEST	PER CENT	CHANGE	AMEX LARGEST	PER CENT	CHANGE
WEST UNION	2 3/4	+ 1/4	HEALTH CAR	3 1/4	+ 1/4
NASHUA	36 1/8	+ 3 7/8	BELDEN	3 3/4	+ 1/4
MUNISING	3 7/8	+ 3/8	AMER FRU B	11 3/4	+ 1/8
CINEPLEX	12 3/4	- 1 1/2	VERSAR INC	4 7/8	- 5/8
GOLDOME	2 1/8	- 1/4	FLAN ENT	2 1/4	- 1/4
NYSE VOLUME	153,750,000		AMEX VOLUME	9,657,600	
STOCKS UP	584		STOCKS UP	275	
STOCKS DOWN	802		STOCKS DOWN	276	
23-MAR NASDAQ VOLUME	149,177,900				
STOCKS UP .952 .DOWN	983				

Wall Street Market Report

The Dow Industrials fell 20 to 2243. Losers led gainers by about an eight-to-one ratio. But trading was only moderate ahead of the long Easter holiday weekend.

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY REUTERS FINANCIAL SERVICES.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

ARAB TIMES, SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1989

International Bond Highlights

TOKYO: NOK Corp is issuing a 150 mln dir four-year equity warrant Eurobond with an indicated coupon of 4-5/8 pct, lead manager Nomura International Ltd. (NOCM 1126).

Zurich: DGB Bank (Schweiz) AG plans to step up its activity on Swiss capital markets now that it has enlisted Jean Francois Kurz as a member of its board. (KXCR 1158)

Geneva: Delays in Western loans and aid to Poland could undermine the political reforms now being negotiated in the country, Polish government spokesman Jerzy Urban said. (KXCG 1359)

Paris: Finance Minister Pierre Boregoyon said France wanted an agreement on the debt of middle-income nations when the world's seven major industrialized nations meet for their annual summit in Paris in July. (KXCC 1208)

London: Salomon Brothers International has issued a notice of default to the Hammersmith and Fulham Council in London in respect of its interest rate swaps deals, but both parties say this will not force immediate payment of money owed. (KXWN 0828)

Tokyo: Bathroom fixture maker Toto Ltd will issue 25 billion yen in convertible bonds on the domestic market through public placement, a spokesman said. (KXWJ 0924)

London: Kansai-Ito-Panicle is issuing a six billion yen Eurobond due April 20, 1993 paying 7.42 pct and priced at 101.825, lead manager Nippon Credit International Ltd said. (KXCI 1116)

London: Midland International Financial Services BV is issuing a five billion yen Eurobond due March 28, 1989 and paying a 7-3/4 pct coupon in Australian dollars, lead manager Samuel Montagu and Co. Ltd said. (KXCB 1053)

Interbank Rates

CALL	ONE MONTH	THREE MONTHS
LDN 12-3/4 1/2	12-15/16 7/8	13 12-15/16
FFI 4.50/70	6.10/20	6.50/60
PAR 8-7/16 9/16	8-1/2 5/8	8-13/16 15/16
BUR 4-5/8 4-7/8	5-1/4 5-1/2	5-1/2 5-3/4
ZUR 8.60	8.00 1/16	8-5/16 3/8
BOM 12-5/8 13-1/8	12-1/2 13	12-3/4 13-1/4
AMS 6.43/56	6.48/58	6.70/80
TOK 4.3/32 5/32	UNO	UNO
EDU 8.12 8.37	8.31 8.43	8.68 8.81

Interest Rates

Following are the average KD interest rates of local interbank transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait yesterday.

Period	Bid	Offered
1 month	8-9/16	9-15/16
3 months	8-13/16	9-1/4
6 months	9	9-7/16
1 year	9-1/8	9-9/16

BOMBAY

PR. CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	CEN SPG	1740	1740	1780	GSFC	155	157.50	158.75
ACC	287	289	293	COLATE	333	340	351.25	GUJ ALK	13	12
ALU CHN	---	---	---	CROWN GR	800	800	---	GUJ HEAVY	13	12
ALU HIS	---	---	---	DCM	11	10.50	11.50	HERO HONDA	30.50	29.50
ART FAR	---	---	---	DEEP FERT	33.50	33.50	33.50	HIND CIBA	900	920
ASHOK LEY	68	69.50	68.50	DUNLOP	72	75	77	HIND COCA	106.25	107.50
ASIA PAINT	212.50	212.50	216.25	EI HOTELS	56	55	56	HIND LEVER	75.50	82
ATLAS COP	46	47	49	ESCORTS	61	61.50	64	HIND MOTOR	39.50	40.50
AUTO CORP	72	70	72	ESKAYE	130	133.75	135	HINDALCO	368	278
BAJAJ AUTO	367.50	375	383.50	ESSAR SPG	20	21.50	22	HOECHST	720	720
BAR RAYON	335	345	347.50	FOOD SPL	---	---	---	HIND ORG	25	27
BE BOND	135	137	140	FORBES	61	60	59	HIND RAYON	86	87.50
BLOM PLAST	---	---	---	GAR POLY	75	76.25	76.25	INDROL	290	295
BOM DYET	128.50	131	134	GE SHIPPING	34.25	35.15	35.75	INDERSOLL	360	360
BURR MEL	185	185	185	GLINDIA	89	92	90	ITC	63	63
CANSHARE	170	---	---	GNFC	45	46	46.50	RECKITT	162.50	162.50
CEN ENKA	2690	2700	2680	GRASIM	101.50	104	107	RELANCE	113	116.50

FRANKFURT

STOCK	LAST PR.	CLSE
AGG	210.5	212.0
ALLIANZ VR	1703.0	1710.0
BADENWERK	183.0	183.0
BASF	286.0	284.7
BAYER	296.8	294.5
BAYER HYP	358.5	353.0
BAYER VER	367.5	366.0
BBC	449.0	449.8
BHF	484.0	483.0
BNW	509.0	509.0
COMMERZB	240.5	240.0
CONTI GUM	475.0	475.0
DALMER BEN	653.5	651.0
DEUTSC BK	504.8	504.0
DLV	471.0	473.0
DRESNER B	307.5	306.0
DT BAROCK	164.5	165.8
FAZ INDEK	548.77	550.68
GOLDSTEIN	336.5	336.0
JOHANNESB	390.0	392.0
HARPENR	460.0	458.0
HOECHST AG	299.4	296.7
HOFER	240.5	243.0
HOFER	227.0	227.0
HOFER HLD	475.0	475.0
KAL SALZ	211.0	209.5
KARSTADT	420.0	422.0
KAUFHOFF	414.0	414.9
KLOECK H	175.0	174.4
KLOECK W	161.5	156.5
LINDE	765.0	767.0
LUFTHANSA	159.0	158.1
MAN	253.5	252.2
MANHESSEN	226.0	227.0
MERCEDES	518.0	520.0
METALLURG	396.0	393.0
MIDWORT PF	293.0	295.0
MORSK HYD	45.00	45.10
PHILIP KOM	693.0	693.0
PORSCHE	723.0	723.0
PREUSSAG	259.0	263.0
RHEINMETAL	458.0	457.0
RUEHLE	243.5	243.5
RUE P	216.8	214.5
SALAMANDER	326.0	325.0
SCHERING	601.0	601.5
SEL	295.0	293.0
SIEMENS	523.5	526.5
THYSEN	223.3	222.6
VARTA	352.0	350.5
VEBA	286.0	285.0
VEW	170.8	170.0
VOLKSWAGEN	341.0	339.5

HONG KONG

STOCK	LAST PR.	CLSE
C H TUNNEL	15.40	15.40
CHEUNG K	10.10	10.10
CHINA GAS	19.10	19.10
CHINA L-P	13.90	13.60
CHINA MOTR	31.25	31.25
COSMO PROP	3.62	3.60
EVERGOLD IND	3.27	3.20
FAR EAST C	95	94
GEN ORIENT	0	44.00
H C DEVELOP	11.50	11.50
H S INDEX	0	37.05
HANG LUNG	6.25	6.25
HANG SENG	31.50	31.25
HAN PAR BR	12.20	12.20
HK ELEC CO	7.65	7.50
HK KOWLOON	10.90	11.00
HK LAND CO	11.00	10.90
HK SHAN BK	7.45	7.50
HK SHAN HT	6.15	6.20
HK TELE CO	5.20	5.20
HUTCH WHAM	10.40	10.40
IND EQ PAC	11.30	11.10
JARDINE M	19.90	19.70
KOWLOON M	9.35	9.30
NEW WORLD	14.30	14.10
PAUL Y CON	1.54	1.53
REALTY DEV	7.85	7.75
S H K CO	2.62	2.62
S H K PROP	14.40	14.30
SINE DARBY	3.10	3.07
STELLUX MFG	3.17	3.17
SWIRE PAC	20.90	20.90
T V B CO	1.30	1.30
TAT CHEUNG	5.70	5.60
UNION BANK	1.79	1.77
WOCK MARD	0	7.25
WOCK MARI	0	1.15
WORLD INTL	5.05	5.05

TOKYO

STOCK	LAST PR.	CLSE
AIJINOMOTO	2610	2660
AKAI ELEC	681	695
AKAI	1520	1580
ASAHI GLS	2070	2030
ASAHI OPT	832	830
BANK TOKYO	1670	1680
BRIDGESTON	1330	1340
CANON	1600	1540
CASIO COMP	1370	1340
CHUGAI PHM	1520	1500
CITIZEN W	932	935
D-ICHI KAN	3400	3450
DAI NIP TK	845	853
DAI NIP RT	2220	2270
DAI NIP SC	950	950
DAI NIP TO	890	890
DAICEL	892	890
DAIWA H	2010	1970
DAIWA SEC	2170	2190
EBARA MFG	1800	1820
EISAI	1850	1890
FUJITSU	1420	1410
FUJITSU	3590	3600
FUJITSU PHOTO	3450	3460
FUJITSU SAHA	1600	1580
FUJITSU CP	2130	2150
HITACHI	1530	1530
HONDA MOT	1850	1870
ISETAN	2270	2250
ITO YOKADO	3570	3550
JAP SYN RU	1210	1210
JAPAN AIR	15200	15400
JAPAN NET	930	932
KAJIMA	2420	2480
KANSAI EL	4430	4390
KAO SOAP	1560	1560
KAWASAKI H	910	908
KAWASAKI S	900	905
KIRIN BREW	1770	1790
KONATSU	1360	1380
KUBOTA LTD	1110	1110
KYOCERA	4280	4750
MAZDA EL	1480	1480
MARUI	2670	2650
MATSUDA EL	2480	2450
MATSUDA EL	0	2660
MEIJI SEIK	962	961
MITSUBI CP	1490	1490
MITSUBI EL	1030	1050
MITSUBI EST	2440	2440
MITSUBI HYY	1050	1060
MITSUBI CO	1130	1120
MITSUBISHI	2260	2280
MITSUBI EL	931	950
NICHICON	1260	1250
NIHON CHMT	1280	1290
NIKKO SEC	1780	1800
NIP ELEC	1740	1730
NIP KOKKAN	890	877
NIP OIL	1590	1600
NIP STEEL	900	905
NIP YUSEN	900	895
NIS MOTOR	1470	1450
NUMURA SEC	3380	3380
OHBA CO.	945	949
OLYMPUS	1130	1140
PENTA-GOI	1600	1620
PIONEER	3050	3060
RENOVAL	955	966
RICOH	1160	1160
SANKYO	2220	2230
SANYO ELEC	894	877
SEIYU ST	2020	2020
SEKISUI PB	1830	1820
SHARP	1270	1270
SHISEIDO	1700	1650
SONY	6690	6690
SUNITOMO	1370	1370
TAISEI	1820	1860
TAISHO HRM	1320	1310
TAKEDA CH	2260	2250
TEIJJIN	800	801
TKO NEW IX	380.17	370.06
TOKIO MRN	2020	2010
TOKYO ELEC	1300	1290
TOKYO GAS	1070	1050
TOKYO PWR	6050	6080
TORAY IND	1140	1160
TOSHIBA EL	2050	2050
TOTO	844	850
TOTO KOGYO	2500	2490
TOYOTA MOT	1310	1340
YAMAHA	1760	1790
YAMAMOTO	3370	3400
YAMAZAKI	1370	1390

Tokyo Stock Market Report

DOLLAR CLOSURES STEADY IN LACKLUSTRE TOKYO TRADE

TOKYO, MARCH 24, REUTER - THE DOLLAR CLOSED STEADY AGAINST MAJOR CURRENCIES AFTER FLUCTUATING NARROWLY IN EXTREMELY DULL AND THIN TRADE, DEALERS SAID.

"THE TOKYO MARKET ALONE CANNOT DRIVE THE DOLLAR MUCH EITHER WAY BECAUSE OVERSEAS TRADERS ARE RELUCTANT TO TAKE POSITIONS AHEAD OF THE LONG EASTER HOLIDAY PERIOD," SAID TAKASHI KANAGAMI, SENIOR DEALER AT MITSUBISHI TRUST AND BANKING.

DEALERS EXPECT NARROW TRADING TO CONTINUE LATER TODAY. THE DOLLAR CLOSED AT 137.27 YEN AND 1.8720/30 MARKS AGAINST 24-MAR-0855, SHK630.

TOKYO STOCKS CLOSE EASY IN DULL TRADE

TOKYO, MARCH 24, REUTER - SHARE PRICES CLOSED EASY AFTER AN INITIAL SURGE IN SLACK, FEATURELESS TRADING WITH MOST INVESTORS SIDELINED AND SOME TAKING PROFITS AHEAD OF THE LONG EASTER WEEKEND AND END-OF-YEAR BOOK CLOSINGS ON MARCH 31, BROKERS SAID.

"THERE IS NOTHING FOR ANYBODY TO REACT TO," SAID ONE BROKER. THE CURRENCY AND BOND MARKETS WERE QUIET TODAY AND MANY WORLD MARKETS WILL BE CLOSED FOR EASTER HOLIDAYS ON FRIDAY AND MONDAY. JAPANESE MARKETS WILL REMAIN OPEN.

THE NIKKEI INDEX SHED 20.14 POINTS TO CLOSE AT 31,568.52, ENDING THE WEEK 452.49 POINTS, OR 1.41 PCT, DOWN.

THE KEY 225-SHARE NIKKEI SLIPPED AFTER RISING AS MUCH AS 111.17 POINTS TO A MORNING HIGH OF 31,699.83 IN EARLY TRADE AND FALLING BY AS MUCH AS 110.69 POINTS IN MID-AFTERNOON TRADE. THE INDEX FINISHED 145.42 UP ON THURSDAY.

TURNOVER WAS A MEK 650 MLN SHARES, ITS LOWEST LEVEL SINCE MONDAY LAST WEEK, AFTER 800 MLN ON THURSDAY.

"TODAY AND MONDAY ARE THE LAST DAYS OF TRADE FOR END OF YEAR SETTLEMENT AND THEREFORE INSTITUTIONS AND BROKERAGES AREN'T MOVING," SAID ONE JAPANESE BROKER.

"BUT WHEN TRADE FOR THE NEW YEAR STARTS ON TUESDAY, THE MARKET SHOULD PICK UP," THE BROKER SAID.

JAPAN'S NEW FISCAL YEAR AND MOST CORPORATE FINANCIAL YEARS START ON APRIL 1, WHILE STOCK TRADING FOR APRIL DELIVERY LITTLE SELLING FROM INSTITUTIONS ON MONDAY SINCE MOST HAVE ALREADY LOCKED IN THEIR PROFITS FOR THE YEAR.

BROKERS WERE PAYING MORE ATTENTION TO MEETINGS OF THEIR SECTION CHIEFS AND BRANCH MANAGERS TO PLAN STRATEGIES FOR THE NEW YEAR. NIKKO, DAIWA AND YAMAZAKI SECURITIES EACH HELD SUCH MEETINGS TODAY WHILE MONJIRA HAD ITS LAST FRIDAY.

AMMAN

As of 22.3.89	OPNG	CLSG		
ALA-ADDIN COMPANY			JOR NATIONAL BANK	
ARAB ALUMINUM IND.			JOR PAPER CARDBRDG	3.75 3.60
ARAB BANK			JOR PHOSPHATE MINS	3.45 3.50
ARAB CHEMICAL DTR	4.65	4.62	JOR PIPES MANUFAC	1.76 1.79
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	2.44	2.41	JOR PRESS/PUBLISH.	1.79 1.72
ARAB INSURANCE			JOR PRINTING/PACK.	4.25 4.40
ARAB INT. INV/TRAD.	0.57	0.54	JOR ROCK WOOL IND.	
ARAB INT. UNION INS	1.25	1.23	JOR SECURIT CORP.	1.12 1.11
ARAB INTER. HOTELS			JOR SELPHO CHEM.	
ARAB JOR/INVEST/BK			JOR WOOD INDUSTRY	
ARAB PAPER COM/TRD	0.43	0.45	JOR WORSTED MLL	5.60 5.60
ARAB PHARMA. MANF.			JOR. KUWAIT AGR	0.93 0.97
ARAB PHARMA/CHEM			JOR. PETROLIUM REF	
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	1.65	1.65	JOR. FRENCH INS.	5.45 5.45
BANK OF JORDAN			JOR. INV. FIN. CORP	
BEIT AL-HAL/BEITNA	1.00	1.00	JORDAN GULF REAL	
BELGIUM INSURANCE	1.00	0.95	JORDAN DAIRY	
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	31.00	EC	JORDAN GULF BANK	
CONFECT/CHOCOLATE	1.05	1.25	JORDAN GULF INS.	0.94 0.95
DAR AL SHAAB PRESS			JORDAN INSURANCE	
DAR ALDAMA DV/INV.			JORDAN ISLAMIC BNK	2.05 2.05
DARCO/INVEST/HOUS.			JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	
FINANCE/CREDIT/COR	0.75	0.71	JORDAN TANNING	2.01 2.05
GARAGE OWNERS OFF			LIVESTOCK/POULTRY	0.74 0.75
GENERAL INSURANCE	2.39	2.63	MACH/EQUI/RENT/MAIN	0.79 0.79
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.35	1.27	INDS/INDUSTRIES	0.69 0.73
GENERAL MINING.	2.20	2.10		1.17 1.11
HIMMEL MINERALS	0.75	0.75	MID EAST EXCHANGE	
HOLY LAND INS.	1.44	EJ	MID EAST HOTEL	
IND./MATCH JEMCO			MODEL	1.99 1.98
INDSTRI DEVLPT BNK	1.60	1.60	MINERALS RESEARCH	0.74 0.75
INDSTRI/COM/AGR.	1.60	1.61	NAT. FIN. INVEST CO	2.01 2.10
INDUSTRIAL INVEST	0.75	0.75	NAT/CASEL/VIRI/WF	
INTERN. COM/INV	0.13	0.13	NATIONAL AULIA INS	1.35 1.28
IRBID ELECTRICITY	0.90	0.90	NATIONAL INDUSTRY	
ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE	0.64	0.64	NATIONAL PORTFOLIO	
ITERMED/PETRI/CH			NATIONAL STEEL	
J. TOUR-SP COMPLEX	0.79	0.80	ORIENT DRY BATTERY	0.25 0.28
JERUSALEM INS.	1.26	1.29	PETRA BANK	2.60 2.55
JOY TOBACCO/CIGARET	20.00	EB	PETRA JOR. INS.	0.35 0.35
JOR CERAMIC FACTOR			PHILADELPHIA INS.	1.10 1.11
JOR EAGLE INS.	25.05	25.05	RAFIA INDUSTRIAL	1.82 1.91
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.20	1.22	REAL ESTATE INV.	
JOR GLASS INDUSTRY			SHIPPING LINES	
JOR HOTEL TOURISM	2.30	2.30	SPINNING WEAVING .	
JOR INDUSTRY CHEM.			THE HOUSING BANK	1.90 1.90
JOR INS AND FIN.	1.20	1.20	UNITED INSURANCE	1.78 1.78
JOR LEASING CORP.			UNIVERSAL CHEM. IND	
JOR LIM BRICK			UNIVERSAL INS.	0.65 0.66
JOR MANAG/CONSULT	0.50	0.50	WOOLEN INDUSTRIES	1.00 1.03
JOR NATIONAL BANK			YARHOUK INSURANCE	1.35 1.35

UAE holds biggest gas reserves in Arab world

KUWAIT, March 24. (OPECNA): The United Arab Emirates owns the largest natural gas reserves among Arab states whose collective reserves totalled 24.34 trillion cu. metres in 1988, representing 21.5 per cent of the estimated world figure of 113.18 trillion cu. metres, according to the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

According to OPEC's 1988 report on Arab natural gas

reserves, the UAE's reserves reached 5.70 trillion cu. metres followed by Saudi Arabia (5.19 trillion) and Qatar (4.43 trillion). Algeria comes fourth with 3.23 trillion cu. metres, followed by Iraq (2.69 trillion), Kuwait (1.37 trillion), Libya (827 billion), Syria (372 billion), Egypt (325 billion), Bahrain (190 billion) and Tunisia (88 billion), the report says.

It adds that OPEC member countries' natural gas reserves

increased from 21.37 trillion cu. metres in 1987 to 24.34 trillion in 1988 with the former's share of world reserves rising from 19.9 per cent to 21.5 per cent.

The report said the increase was basically due to a significant accretion in Saudi Arabia's natural gas reserves which soared from 2.99 trillion cu. metres in 1987 to 5.19 trillion in 1988.

During the same period, Iraq's reserves also increased from 1.41

trillion cu. metres to 2.69 trillion, the report added.

Concerning Arab crude reserves, it said they increased from 502.84 billion barrels in 1987 to 589.90 billion barrels in 1988.

Boosted

This has boosted the Arab share in the world oil reserves from 56.6 per cent in 1987 to 59.5 per cent in 1988, the report said. It attributed the increase to a rise in Saudi Arabia's reserves,

which, according to one Saudi estimate, went up from 169.60 billion barrels in 1987 to 255 billion in 1988.

The report said the reserves of OPEC's other members in 1988 were as follows: Iraq (100 billion barrels), UAE (98.10 billion), Kuwait (94.50 billion), Algeria (8.50 billion), Qatar (3.15 billion), Bahrain (140 million), Tunisia (1.80 billion), Syria (1.75 billion), Libya (21 billion) and Egypt (4.30 billion).

Jordan's oil reserves sufficient for domestic use

AMMAN, March 24. (OPECNA): An Arab scientist has told a seminar here that Jordan's oil reserves, though not of commercial quantity, are sufficient to meet domestic consumption.

In a lecture delivered at the International Affairs Society on Wednesday, Dr. Farouq Al-Baz from Egypt said aerial surveys and studies conducted by the Jordanian authorities in charge of natural resources had proved that the country owned "large quantities of petroleum reserves."

Al-Baz pointed out that the quantities discovered so far would not lead to a substantive change in Jordan's economy, adding that the government had made "great efforts" in exploration, resulting in the discovery of large quantities of natural gas.

Exploration He stated that Jordan had spent \$147 million on oil exploration in the Rishbiya area, near the border with Iraq, had the value of the natural gas found so far was estimated at 152 million.

Meanwhile, an 18-month contract was signed here on Wednesday by the Jordanian Natural Resources Authority and the Austrian Mineral Oil Company to explore a 5,500 sq. km area in the Sirhan region, eastern Jordan, for oil.

According to an official statement, the company also agreed to carry out seismic surveys over a 700-km area, 150 km of which had already been covered by the Jordanian authority.

Jordan pumps about 12 million cu. metres of gas per day from the Rishbiya region and also produces one per cent of its oil consumption which is around 60,000 BPD.

Dutch fine Amoco for causing oil slick

AMSTERDAM, March 24. (Reuters): The Dutch government has fined the Amoco oil company 32,000 guilders (\$15,400) for causing a large oil spillage in the North Sea, the Justice Department said yesterday.

Amoco is the first major US oil company to be fined by the Netherlands for causing pollution.

Millions of Soviets live on the breadline

MOSCOW, March 24. (Reuters): Millions of Soviet citizens live on the breadline with totally inadequate wages or pensions, the Communist Party newspaper Pravda reported today.

"We write very rarely about poor people — pensioners, labour veterans and invalids living on low incomes, about young families living from hand to mouth — yet there are very many of them in our country," the newspaper said.

Fifteen million people in the Soviet Union live on a pension of less than 60 roubles (\$97) a month, it added. Pension levels are normally decided by the level of wages in the year before retirement.

Pravda quoted a letter from a war veteran on a 57-rouble (\$92) monthly pension who complained she had seen little sign of Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reform plans.

"In recent times they talk a lot about perestroika, but for us pensioners, life has become many times worse," she wrote.

Poverty

"In the evening, when no one is watching, I go to the garbage bins to see if someone has thrown away any old shoes."

Officials have denied for

decades that poverty existed in the Soviet Union but it has been a major theme in campaigning for Sunday's elections for a new-style Soviet parliament.

Pravda said it received many letters about growing social injustice in the Soviet Union. As the number of entrepreneurs and rouble millionaires rose, the standard of living fell — especially for low-income groups.

Letter writers were not asking to buy mink coats but simply wanted to be able to buy the food and medicines they needed.

One letter writer from Petrozavodsk said it had cost 20 kopecks (32 cents) to go to the public baths before they became self-financing under Kremlin plans to make enterprises more profitable. Now, it cost 50 kopecks (81 cents), he complained.

A pensioner from Leningrad wrote to complain that prices charged by new co-operative businesses were sky-high and state prices were going up steadily. "Sometimes, to tell the truth, I don't even feel like living," he said. "Yes, but in our times, even dying isn't cheap."

The price of coffins had risen to 132 roubles (\$213) from 40-65 roubles (\$64-105), he said.

UK inflation rate rises

LONDON, March 24. (AP): Britain's annual inflation rate jumped to a faster-than-expected 7.8 per cent in February, from 7.5 per cent in the previous month.

Largely because of higher mortgage rates, the Department of Employment said yesterday.

The higher mortgage rates stem from the government's drive to push up interest rates as a way of fighting Britain's resurgent inflation, which Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher repeatedly has said in her top economic priority.

Excluding mortgage payments, the annual rate of inflation stood at 5.7 per cent, Employment Secretary Norman Fowler said.

The annual rate was higher than the 7.7 per cent rate the markets had been expecting and fuelled speculation on whether interest rates would be pushed up even higher than their 13-per cent level.

The pound held steady on the news. But share prices surprisingly gained, as investors took the report in stride ahead of the long Easter holiday weekend.

"The reaction was very muted," said one London trader. "For some people maybe, the figures weren't as scary as they thought."

Another trader said: "It's not eight per cent."

Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson warned during his fiscal budget speech earlier this month that he expected Britain's annual inflation rate to peak at around eight per cent in the middle of year, and that he expected the underlying rate, excluding mortgage rates, to peak at 5.5 per cent, a level it surpassed with the latest report.

"The chancellor already has some eggs on his face," said Kevin Gardiner, economist at the London investment firm Warburg Securities.

Industry to get further boost

Iraq expands oil ties with Arab countries

BAGHDAD, March 24. (OPECNA): South Yemen has recently been added to a long list of Arab countries whose oil industries received Iraqi technical aid.

Under an accord signed in Aden last week at the end of a three-day visit to South Yemen by Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Raheem Al-Chalabi, Iraq will provide training facilities to South Yemeni oil personnel at Iraqi oil centres and training institutes.

Moreover, Iraq will considerably increase the quantity of its crude oil — about 15,000 tonnes a year — processed at the Aden

oil refinery.

The increase has become possible following the ceasefire in the Gulf war, enabling the country to use its Gulf ports and look for new exporting outlets.

Besides South Yemen, Iraq maintains strong oil co-operation with many Arab countries including Jordan, North Yemen, Sudan, Somalia and Morocco.

Role

Iraqi seismic teams have played a major role in oil discoveries in Jordan and North Yemen over the past few years while Iraqi experts have provided technical assistance to Sudan as well as Somalia where

Iraq built an oil refinery in the 1970s.

The expansion of Iraq's oil co-operation with other Arab countries coincides with the considerable boom in the country's oil industry, with recent figures showing that in 1988 oil production increased by 19.3 per cent over the 1987 level.

Iraq's oil industry will receive a further boost when a major oil refinery in the southern Iraqi city of Basra, whose completion was delayed by the war, goes into production in June 1989 with an annual capacity of 140,000 BPD of petroleum products and 100,000 tonnes of lubricating oil.

Austrian firms to boost trade ties with Kuwait

Economic seminar planned

VIENNA, March 24. (KUNA): President of the Austrian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Rudolf Sallinger said Austrian companies are willing to boost economic and trade ties with Kuwait and the Gulf Co-operation Council countries.

The balance of payments between both Austria and Kuwait is considered a major factor for enhancing and developing trade and economic ties between the two countries, the Austrian official said here on Wednesday in a statement to Kuwait News Agency.

Sallinger was quoted as saying "we not only intend buying and exporting from Kuwait, but we are aiming at importing and assisting in joint projects to guarantee the transfer of technology and the development of the industrial sector in Kuwait."

Sallinger supported the opening of the Austrian market for Kuwaiti petrochemical products, adding that Austria calls for the freedom of trade between countries.

Austria wants to help in the reconstruction projects in Iraq, the development process in other Arab countries and to assist in solving the intricate economic situation that resulted from the Iraq-Iranian eight year war, Sallinger said.

Sallinger added that the Austrian Chamber of Commerce and Industry is ready to do its utmost to expand relations with Kuwait and the rest of the Gulf Co-operation Council countries, such as preparing for exhibitions, exchange of delegations and economic seminars.

An economic and trade seminar on GCC countries will be held next June in Vienna with the participation of economic and trade sectors from GCC countries and Austria.

World Bank continues to give aid to Indonesia

JAKARTA, March 24. (OPECNA): The World Bank will continue to provide aid to Indonesia, and may even increase it in the coming years, according to one of its directors, Russel Cheetam.

After a meeting with President Suharto at Bina Graha, Cheetam told the press that he considered Indonesia committed to a sound economic policy in a bid to repay its debts.

The World Bank, he said, was impressed with a series of economic restructuring policies the government began to implement in 1983 when world oil prices started to decline.

Within five years after taking the decision, the Indonesian government had managed to

reduce its dependence on oil exports and to promote its non-oil exports, said the bank official.

Cheetam added that the country's efforts to boost its non-oil exports had been highly successful, noting that only within about two years, the value of these exports had increased from \$6 billion to almost \$12 billion.

"Many countries have also tried to restructure their economic policies, but they are not as successful as Indonesia," he said.

In his meeting with Suharto, Cheetam reassured the Indonesian head of state that World Bank assistance to the country's development programme would continue.

When asked about Indonesia's debt service ratio, the

official said it had increased in the past four to five years because of a number of factors, including the changing value of foreign currencies, declining oil and gas exports and the debt burden in general.

However, he also was of the view that Indonesia's foreign debts would decline as a result of the government's economic policies.

The declining debt burden, he said, would enable Indonesia to mobilise resources from other sectors. The country's non-oil exports, he added, would also help greatly.

World Bank assistance to Indonesia for new projects in 1987-88 totalled \$1.40 billion.

'Swindles rife among EEC officials'

LONDON, March 24. (Reuters): A top British businessman renewed accusations of European Economic Community corruption today saying massive expenses-cheating was rife among EEC officials.

Sir John Hoskyns, who chaired the EEC commission last month by saying it was intellectually and financially corrupt, said one Member of the European Parliament (MEP) he had heard about had swindled £100,000 (\$172,000).

"What is one to make of the MEP who boasts of having made £100,000 on his expenses in the past four years?" Hoskyns, retiring director-general of the Institute of Directors, asked at a London conference.

"When a businessman who has lived in Brussels for years told me about that, I was incredulous. But he replied that, judging from other similar boasts he had heard, he reckoned that particular individual was something of an under-achiever."

No further rate rises needed: Brady

Inflation under control

WASHINGTON, March 24. (Reuters): Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady said yesterday that inflation seems to be cooling off and suggested there may be no reason to raise interest rates further.

Although the White House and the Federal Reserve have sometimes squabbled in recent months over the inflation threat, Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan indicated on Wednesday that he, too, wanted to wait and see what impact the Central Bank's recent credit tightening would have on the economy.

In a speech to the National Association of Manufacturers, Brady acknowledged differences of opinion but said the administration was as determined as the Federal Reserve to curb inflation.

"It is possible to have different interpretations of the same economic statistics and still share the same goal of fighting inflation," he

said. While some economic indicators were of concern, such as the one per cent increase in producer prices in both January and February, others were reassuring, Brady said. He cited recent declines in durable goods orders and retail sales as well as Tuesday's moderate 0.4 per cent increase in the consumer price index (CPI).

Peter Nord, president of Schauer Manufacturing Corp., a small Cincinnati firm that makes battery chargers, took issue with Brady's optimism that inflation is under control.

Nord, sitting in the audience, said he was ordering a six per cent price increase as of today because the cost of his raw materials, including steel, copper and cardboard, had doubled in the past year.

"We're just beginning to pass along to our customers the cost increases we've had over

the past year," he said.

Brady responded that for competitive reasons not all industries were in a position to pass along higher costs to consumers. "The CPI seems to be levelling off at a four per cent increase," he said.

Greenspan told a House Banking Subcommittee that the full effects of the Fed's tighter policy over the past year have yet to be felt by the US economy.

The Fed has gradually pushed up short-term interest rates from about 6.5 per cent last March to nearly 10 per cent yesterday in an attempt to prevent inflationary pressures from destabilising the economy and thereby killing the current expansion, now in its seventh year.

Greenspan said there are "significant lags" between the time the Fed pushes up interest rates and when economic activity begins to slow in response.

Iraq's first arms fair planned

LONDON, March 24. (KUNA): Around a dozen British defence companies will attend Iraq's first international arms fair next month, according to a report here today.

The Daily Telegraph newspaper said Western firms would "battle" for contracts, though British companies did not expect to make any sales because of a UK government embargo on weapons sales to either Iraq or Iran.

However, British firms "hope to build up their image in Iraq to win contracts if and when the arms embargo is lifted," the daily pointed out.

It quoted a defence company

executive who said: "We have not been in Iraq for eight years. We are going there to see what the prospects are. It is a long-term process which could take several years."

Some 18 countries are expected to attend the week-long fair in Baghdad, the Telegraph reported.

The paper noted the strength of Iraq's "battle-hardened" armed forces, and the "major advances" made by Iraqi engineers in missile technology.

Baghdad wanted to set up joint ventures with foreign companies to build more advanced weapons, including tanks, in Iraq itself, added the newspaper.

Demand for rough diamonds

De Beers raises prices 15.5pc

LONDON, March 24. (AP): The De Beers diamond cartel, citing strong demand, says it is increasing prices for rough gemstones an average 15.5 per cent.

The price increase for a broad range of uncut diamonds, announced on Tuesday, is effective next week and is the first since a 13.5 per cent increase last May.

De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd., which is based in Johannesburg, controls 80 per cent of the world's rough diamond market through its London-based marketing arm, Central Selling Organisation.

It does not disclose what the prices are.

The cartel only sets prices for rough diamonds, which it doesn't disclose, and operates a pipeline of diamonds from its mines in South Africa and Australia to dealers and cutters in the

world's major diamond cutting centres, Antwerp, Bombay, New York, and Tel Aviv.

It holds about 10 "sights" — or sales — for international diamond dealers a year, with the next one scheduled for next week.

"We are responding to prevailing conditions in the market. It was market-led," spokesman Richard Dickson said yesterday about the price increase.

Demand for rough diamonds of two carats and less is especially strong, he said.

"The industry is anticipating another good year in 1989 from retail diamond and jewellery sales," Dickson said.

The generally weaker dollar has helped sales because diamonds are priced in dollars and holders of Japanese yen and European currencies get more for their money.

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CENTRAL BANK OF KUWAIT

ANNOUNCEMENT

For Subscription in Issue No. (45) for Treasury Bills
Authorised by Decree Law No. (50) of 1987

CENTRAL BANK OF KUWAIT, on behalf of the Ministry of Finance of the State of Kuwait, hereby announces the offering of TREASURY BEARER BILLS in Kuwaiti Dinar for SUBSCRIPTION in compliance with the following Rules and Regulations:

1. AMOUNT OF ISSUE:
The Amount of this Issue is KD 150 million distributed over THREE Denominations as follows:
KD 50 000, KD 250 000, KD 500 000
2. ISSUE DATE : Wednesday 29 / 3 / 1989
3. DUE DATE : Wednesday 28 / 6 / 1989
4. OFFERING PERIOD:
From : Saturday 25 / 3 / 1989
To : Tuesday 28 / 3 / 1989
5. ALLOTMENT: Wednesday 29 / 3 / 1989
6. DELIVERY OF BILLS:
After one week following the date of submitting the application.
7. The Provisions of this Issue shall be subject to the Rules and Conditions stipulated in the Announcement for Subscription in Issue No. (1) for Treasury Bills, published in the Local Newspapers of Saturday, November 21, 1987 and in the Official Gazette (Kuwait Al-Youm) No.1746 issued Sunday, November 22, 1987.

هكذا مني لعل

TV CORNER

This week on KTV 2

SUNDAY

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Dennis the Menace: cartoon serial
6.30 The Animal Express
7.00 Scientific Eye: "Seeing and Believing"
7.30 Just the Ten of Us: "First Day at School"
8.00 News in English
8.40 Magnum: "Resolution"
9.40 Dive to Adventure: documentary
10.00 What's Happening Now: "The Boss' Daughter"
10.30 Best-Seller: "A Dangerous Life"
11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Holy Quran/Close-down

MONDAY

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Bionic Six: cartoon serial
6.15 Seal Morning
7.00 Roving Report: news review featuring an update on Arab and world events
7.30 Perspective: this documentary examines science and technology and the impact on society
8.00 News in English
8.40 A Different World: A new music teacher becomes the centre of attention at the college. Comedy. Starring: Lisa Bonet, Danna Lewis, Marisa Tomei

9.30 Espinosa: "Mail-time". A look at the "snails" shopping centres in the US.
10.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents: "The Twist". Thriller.
10.30 French Feature Film: "Le Chat". Starring: Simone Signoret, Jean Gabin. A drama about a lonely couple who lead a dreary life until unexpected events start to happen...
11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Holy Quran/Close-down

TUESDAY

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Noveltoons: Cartoons
6.30 Break Point
7.00 A Finite World: "India". Part 3 examines the fabric of Indian life, pollution, status of women and education.
8.00 News in English
8.40 The Last Season: part 3
9.40 The Hit Squad: a series on practical jokes.
10.10 Loose: "Snow Place". Sunny takes Mimi on a holiday but they are bogged down by



Marcos calls a snap poll in A Dangerous Life, Sunday's best-seller at 10.30 pm on KTV 2. Above: a scene from the serial.

9.30 Espinosa: "Mail-time". A look at the "snails" shopping centres in the US.
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8.00 News in English
8.40 The Last Season: part 3
9.40 The Hit Squad: a series on practical jokes.
10.10 Loose: "Snow Place". Sunny takes Mimi on a holiday but they are bogged down by

magic show.
10.30 Late Night Movie: "Smokey and the Bandit II". Part 2 of the Smokey and the Bandit trilogy, pregnant with elephant jokes. Starring: Burt Reynolds, Sally Field and Paul Williams. 101 minutes.

12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Holy Quran/Close-down

FRIDAY

4.00 Holy Quran
4.10 The Sylvanian Family: cartoons
4.30 Italian Football
5.40 American Basketball
7.30 Star Trek: The New Generation: "We'll Always Have Paris". The Starship Enterprise answers a distress call from another spaceship.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Breaking Away
8.55 Big League Soccer: Brian Moore presents English League games.
9.40 Weekend: local programme
10.00 The Charmings: "Trading Places". Comedy. Lillian makes Luther's wish come true, with some disastrous effects.

10.30 The Challenge: episode 5/6. In 1983, Australia captured the Americas Cup, ending the 132 years winning streak. This episode dramatises the events leading to the victory.
11.30 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Holy Quran/Close-down

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 Holy Quran
9.15 Cartoon Serial
10.00 Al Mubarrat: Arabic serial; featuring Mahmoud Saud, Ahmad Mazhar, Safiya Al Omari, Ahmad Maher
11.00 Baqaya Wajoo: Arabic serial, starring: Hayat Al Fahad, Khalid Al Obaid, Tayeba Al Farah, Abdul Aziz Haddad
12.00 Gulf Cuisine
1.00 News Summary
1.05 World News via Satellite/Close-down

EVENING

4.00 Holy Quran
4.15 World News via Satellite
4.45 Cartoon serial
5.15 Al Fannan Sagheer: The Young Artists
5.45 Nazrat Al Alam: documentary
6.00 Al Islam Wal Insaan: religious programme
7.00 News Summary
7.15 Noor Al Islam
7.50 Security and Citizens

8.30 Good Evening
9.00 News in Arabic
9.50 Daerat Al Abdath: Circle of Events. The Problems of Industry in Kuwait. Guests are Essa Vassin, undersecretary of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour; Shahin Al Ghanim, Khalid Fusan. Hosted by Kamel Abdul Jalil
10.45 Al Difa'a Yathum: Arabic play. Part 2. Starring: Mustafa Fahmi, Iman Toqi, Samir Husni, Mohammad Wafiq
12.15 News Summary
12.20 World News via Satellite
12.45 Holy Quran/Close-down

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Duck Tales
6.30 The Scheme of Things: "River of Grass". A look at swamps in Florida.
7.00 Sea Urchins: the adventure at sea continues as Nick, Peter and Hope pursue the gang.
7.30 A special documentary on Greece will be shown on the occasion of that country's national day.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Our House: "Neighbourhood Watch". Gus becomes an adviser to his neighbours
9.30 National Geographic: "The Grizzlies."
10.30 Made-for-TV Movie: "P.K. and the Kid." Starring: Paul Lumet. The story of a girl who runs away from home and is pursued by her parents who want to bring her back.
12.15 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Holy Quran/Close-down

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

BBC World Services

0600 Newswatch
30 Personal View
45 Recording of the Week
0100 News Summary followed by Outlook (ex 25th Gethsemane and Guernica)
25 Financial News (ex 25th)
30 Classical Record Review (ex 25th)
45 Book Choice
50 New Ideas
0200 World News
09 British Press Review
15 Network UK
30 People and Politics
0300 World News
09 News about Britain
15 The World Today
30 The Vintage Chart Show
0400 Newswatch
30 Here's Humph
45 Personal View
0500 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Financial News
40 Words of Faith
45 The World Today
0600 Newswatch
30 Meridian
0700 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Financial News
45 Network UK
0800 World News
09 Words of Faith
15 A Jolly Good Show
0900 World News
09 British Press Review

15 The World Today
30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup
45 Personal View
1000 News Summary followed by Here's Humph
15 Letter from America
30 People and Politics
1100 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Classical Record Review
30 Meridian
1200 Newswatch
15 Multitrack 3
45 Sports Roundup
1300 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Network UK
45 Sing Gospel
1400 News Summary followed by The Ken Bruce Show
30 Sportsworld
1500 Newswatch
15 Sportsworld contd
1600 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Sportsworld contd

FM Services

0600 Opening/Easy Listening
0830 News
2145 Point of View
2155 Songs and Music
2200 Kuwait in a Week
2215 Rock On
2345 Daily Programme
2300 Strictly Romantic
2330 Amazing Fact
2400 Closedown

English

MORNING
0800 Opening
0802 Songs and Music
0830 News in English
0840 Songs and Music
0845 Daily Programme
0900 Cultural Horizon
0930 Reggae Rock
1000 Our Press Today
1005 Songs and Music
1100 Closedown
EVENING
2100 Opening

Urdu

1900 Opening
1910 Behtera Qaul
1920 Songs
1935 Press Report
1940 Jaish
2000 News in Urdu
2020 Songs
2040 Dhanak
2100 Closedown

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Sultan Gallery
AN exhibition of paintings by Shaker Hussain will be held from March 28 at the gallery, Thumayn Al Ghanim Bldg., Al Soor St.

Boushahr Gallery
"GRAPHIC art by Bulgarian artists are on show at 6 pm at the gallery in Salmiya. It will be open daily from 9 am to 12.30 noon and 4 to 8.30 pm, until March 28.

Formative Arts Show
MARCH 26: A formative arts show will open at the Dahiyat Abdullah Al Salem Gallery. More than 30 artists from 12 countries will display their work. It will be open to public from March 27, from 8 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8 pm.

Kuwait Science Museum
OPEN Saturday - Wednesday, 4.30 - 5.30 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursday and Friday.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT. - Thurs.: 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4.30 to 7.30 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment. Arabian Gulf St.

Yaqar Rajab Museum
SAT. - Thurs.: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm; Fridays: 9 am to noon. Collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world.

Sadu House
SAT. - Thurs.: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts.

CINEMA

Iraqi Film Festival
AN Iraqi film festival is being held in Kuwait. It will continue till March 29. The following films will be shown:
March 25: Urs Iraqi (1988); director: Mohd. Shukri Jamil; starring: Qassem Mallak, Fatima Rabaa.
March 26: Hub fi Baghdad (1986); director: Abdul Hadi Al Rawi; starring: Khalil Shawki, Susan Al Ali.
March 28: Shay Min Al Quwwah, starring: Miqdad Abdul Rida, Khalil Shawki.
March 29: Al Bait, starring: Athar Khidir, Awatif Ibrahim.
All films will be shown at 7.30 pm at the auditorium of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Children not permitted inside the auditorium.

MUSIC

Best Concert
MARCH 31: Vishal Arts present a best concert featuring Symphony and Perfect Strangers from 10 am at the Sharq Co-operative Hall. At 6 pm the show will present a variety of group with Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi music and folk dances. For details call Anthony D'Souza or Arjun Gehi. Tel: 2631826 or 2663693.

Open-Air Concert
MARCH 31: Steve Michael with the Zambesi will feature in the "Peace and Love" concert at the Salmiya Club stadium. The show starts at 5 pm. Tickets are now available from Swan Lake, Salmiya/Kuwait City; No. 1 records, Sultan Center, Salmiya.

THEATRE

Malayalam Drama
APRIL 7: Gayathi Arts will present their first Malayalam drama "Kavitha Panam" at Indian Arts Circle. Written by Chandra Mohan and directed by Nandan Iringalukuda. For entry passes call 5643126.

ACT
MARCH 27, 28, 29, 30 (8 pm): ACT presents Jean Giraudoux' comic fantasy "The Madwoman of Chailot", directed by George Plautz, at Mousetrap Theatre, Jabriya. Reduced ticket price for opening night. For reservations call 5731782 (answerphone) or 5755391, 5-7 pm.

HOTELS

At the Meridian
A SPECIAL menu will be featured in the Versailles, Al Waha and La Brasserie Restaurants to celebrate the Mother's Day. The hotels will give roses and gifts to all mothers visiting the outlets. A special cake will also be featured in Al Waha.

Kuwait International Hotel
FALLAKA offers Arabian buffet every Thursday from 7.30 pm. Live entertainment by SoFi Trio.
La Patisserie is having Austrian Pastry Promotion upto 27th. Specially flown in Pastry Chef from Vienna, Michael Mooslechner prepares Salzburger Nut Cake, Linzer Chocolate Mousse Cake, Grater Vanilla Tart, Vienna Plum Yeast Noodles with Vanilla sauce and lots more.

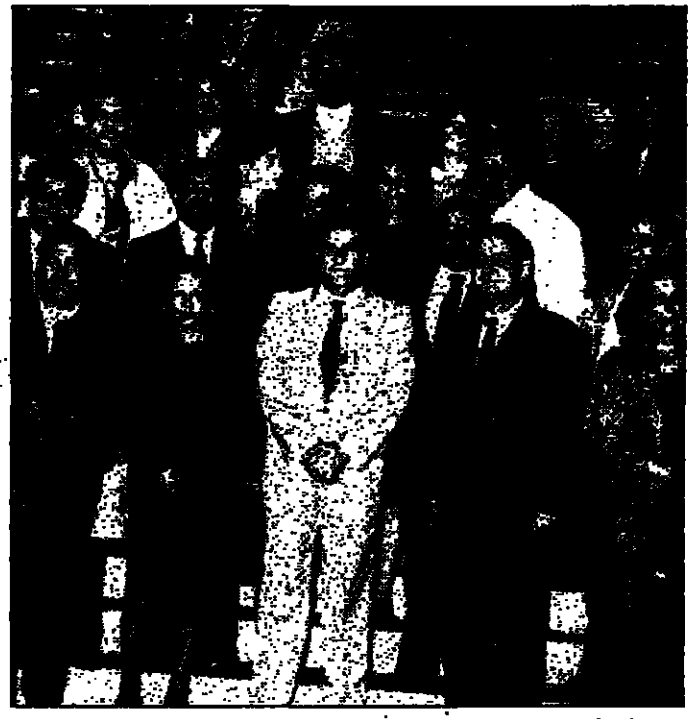
At the Ramada
AL BENDAR Coffee Shop offers continental and Arabic buffets for breakfast, lunch and dinner; 6 am to midnight; a la carte available.
Thursday's is BBQ Night at Le Mirage Night Club, with full buffet and entertainment by the Al Arz Band.
The Friday Family Brunch introduces cartoon characters on the ship's discovery; train tour of the hotel's garden and waterfront.
The Marina Takeaway Counter features a selection of sandwiches and snacks, 4 pm to 11 pm.

At the Sheraton
JORDANIAN Festival: March 28, 29 and 31: The Royal Jordanian Folklore troupe will present dances, songs and Arab music. The troupe has performed in prestigious national and Arab music festivals. The performances will be followed by dinner. For reservations call the hotel ext. 104/107/109.

SPORTS

Nehru Cup
MARCH 25: The inaugural Nehru Cup volleyball tournament will be held at the Maseelah courts. For details of participation contact the organiser on Tel: 3928493, 8 am to 8 pm.

Volleyball Tournament
MARCH 31: The Kuwait Malayalee Association will hold a volleyball tournament for Indians in connection with the Nehru Centenary celebrations. For details call Prem - 4675622 ext 293 (7 am - 3 pm).



The Tunisian Folklore Troupe, which will take part in a festival at the Kuwait International Hotel, has arrived in Kuwait. Above: some members of the troupe are pictured with the Kuwait hotel staff.



Pavol Kovac

Musical notes

CZECH pianist Pavol Kovac will perform at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel on Monday.
Kovac, born in a musical family, began studying piano music at the age of five. Later, he studied at the Conservatoire in Pressburg and completed his studies under the tutelage of Professor R. Macudzinski. He rounded off his musical education with J. Brahms piano concert in D-Minor.
He has participated in several European piano concerts including the Smetana, Busoni and Tchaikovsky. He has also given concerts in Japan, Cuba, Europe, the US and Middle East.

All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22532) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except hand delivered from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shurwah. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Ahlam Pharmacy
Souk Muttahada, Fahd Al Salem St.
Al Salaam Pharmacy
nr. Universal Hotel, Mubarak Al Kabir St.
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Ikhlas Pharmacy
Opp. Andalus, Beirut St.
Salmiya and Rumaythiya
Al Samah Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak St.
Fahabheel and Ahmadi
Al Ahmadi Pharmacy
Souk Al Markazi, Ahmadi
Farwaniya
Al Huwaila Pharmacy
Mustawaf St.
Jahra
Al Zahra Pharmacy
New Commercial Market

PRAYERS

Fajr	4.25 am
Zuhr	11.54
Asr	3.23 pm
Maghreb	6.03
Isha	7.20

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Mission Terminates (Arabic)
Al Salmiya
Arabic play
Al Hamra
Al Majnoon (Arabic)
Starring: Shahira, Hussein Sharbini, Issad Yunus
Drive-In
Amber Al Maut (Arabic)
Starring: Noor Al Shareef, Afaf Shuaib
Al Firdous
Mohabbat (Hindi)
Starring: Anil Kapoor, Vijeta Pandit

Fahabheel Open-air
Suraj (Hindi)
Al Fahabheel
August 1 (Malayalam)
Al Jahra
French film
Granada
Chattanooga Choo Choo
Salsabikhat
Al Duniya Ala Jinah
Yamama (Arabic)
Al Jeeb
Daisy (Bengali)
Ahmadi Drive-in
Raging Vendetta

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THE NATIONAL EVANGELICAL CHURCH
IN KUWAIT

wish to express their
heartfelt sympathy to the
family of
**ELDER HABIB
YAKOUB SHAMMAS**

"Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of His godly ones."

Julian Lennon hits the high notes

The son also rises

By Andy Smith

THERE'S nothing of the Rock 'n' Roll brat-pack about Julian Lennon. He's soft-spoken, sometimes self-deprecating and, to all appearances, even shy. Yet it's hard to forget the odd and unsettling fact that the man sitting opposite me on a Holland Park hotel terrace is the son of John Lennon.

Just as it's hard to imagine a world where the Beatles hadn't existed, so it's hard to escape the Lennon legacy, especially if you're his son. Julian doesn't look as much like his father as I seem to remember. Somehow you expect a Scouse accent, too, though what you get is a regionless Southern English — the result of a childhood on the move — with encroaching hints of mid-Atlantic drawl. But the voice, in terms of tone and texture is a dead ringer. Listening to the tape of the interview afterwards is an eerie experience. Julian has just moved to L.A., the sprawling hub of a state his father was once expelled from for possession of drugs. There, he seems to have settled quickly among the expat British Rock 'n' Rollers like Billy Idol and Billy Duffy of The Cult. You get the impression he's enjoying life for the first time.

Julian is currently back in the land of his birth to promote a third album, Mr. Jordan. The first single from it, Now You're In Heaven, is already being raved about by Radio One producers and looks set to be a hit. The big surprise is that it sounds for all the world like David Bowie circa Let's Dance.

"I accidentally wrote it in the wrong key, and we recorded it like that without realising. It sounded really good once we'd done it, so I just said, 'no way are we going to re-record it.' I liked it."

Was he aware of the Bowie resonances?

"Yeah, I knew people would say it sounded like him. I was aware of it when we were in the studio, but at least it makes a change from everyone saying I sound just like my dad!"

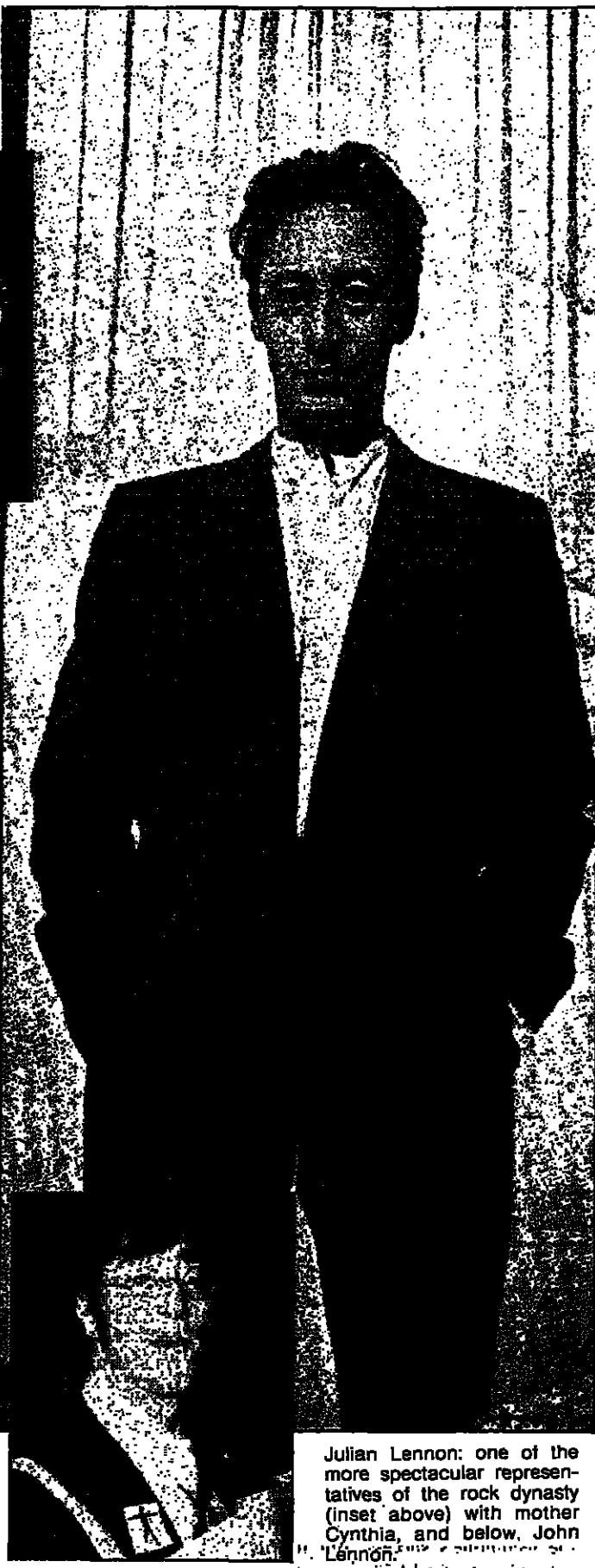
Julian Lennon is feeling good about himself and his music now. He feels more in control than before, admitting that "the first two albums were basically me being led into the situation by the record company." Of course they wanted to be able to sell him as John Lennon Mark II. The perfect marketing gambit. Julian is pleased that the several people interviewing him today have been asking fewer questions about his father than were asked in the past, and pleased that he's now established enough to refuse to answer them when they do.

Yet it is the most interesting thing about him, and it's why he's here. Why we're here. You want to ask him how he felt about John's death. You forget that John Lennon was Julian's father and that he probably felt as we all would about a parent's death. This is all exacerbated by the fact that Lennon the younger plainly didn't inherit his father's wit, willfulness or radical irreverence. Not to mention the arrogance that, arguably, made all these things possible. And why should he have? But where does that leave Julian? Are we interested in him or his connections with a past we all shared? It's a quandary.

Julian Lennon is also one of the more spectacular representatives of Rock dynasty. We're only now seeing what happens when the stars reach middle age in a traditionally youthful business. Will their offspring succeed them? We already have Whitney Houston (niece of Dionne Warwick), Kim Wilde (Marty Wilde's daughter), Louise Goffin (Carole King's daughter) and Sam Brown (daughter of sixties popster Joe Brown). Julian is philosophical.

"I like what I'm doing. I'll get some flak from it because of who I am, but I don't mind, because I'm enjoying myself. I don't feel guilty about anything I've done or why I'm here."

Stepping into a Notting Hill fast-food joint after meeting Julian Lennon, I realise the song playing in the background is Starting Over, By John Lennon. The opening line consists of two words: "I'm alive."



Julian Lennon: one of the more spectacular representatives of the rock dynasty (inset above) with mother Cynthia, and below, John Lennon.

MICHAEL Jackson has "parted amicably" with his tubby, cigar-chomping manager Frank Dileo. Roughly translated, this means that Frank has probably been sacked. Although there's no "official" reason why Michael has done this, it is well known that Michael is miffed that:

● His "BAD" LP only sold a meagre 16 million copies world-wide. Michael had hoped it would be more successful than "Thriller" which sold about 41 million. (In Britain, incidentally, the sales of "BAD" have now overtaken "Thriller".)

● His film Moonwalker, although it raked in millions of dollars through video sales, was never actually put out on general release in America.

● Michael's also getting a bit fed up with all the stories that have appeared in "news" papers all over the world suggesting that he's barking mad. He may be a trifle eccentric but Michael insists he's playing with a full deck.

It has been suggested that Michael blames Frank for it all and that this is the real reason behind the "amicable" parting.

Another theory is that because Michael has officially given up playing live concerts (his farewell performance was at the LA Sports Arena in February), Michael no longer needs Frank's services.

"It's well known that Michael and Frank were big chums — Michael spent a lot of time at Frank's house and loved playing with his children — which makes the whole thing a bit of a mystery, really."

● Prince too, has sacked his management "team". And the rumour this time is that Prince is skint, which seems highly unlikely given that he owns a

£10 1/2 million studio complex and still sells the odd record now and again.

Another rumour concerning the pint-sized perky one is that he's "composing" the music for the new Batman film, which is being made in London as we "speak".

● Neil Tennant hasn't sacked his manager at all! But he has been asked to sing a song on the new LP being recorded by Barney Sumner, the singer in New Order, and ex-Smiths guitar whizz Johnny Marr. And he's going to do it! Shiver me timbers.

Jefferson Airplane to reunite

LOS ANGELES, (AP): Four of the five original members of the Jefferson Airplane rock music group are reuniting 17 years after it disbanded, a publicist says.

Grace Slick, Paul Kantner, Jorma Kantner, Jorma Kaukonen and Jack Casady are "in the process of signing a major record contract," said Mitchell Schneider.

Marty Balin, who left the band after the Volunteers album was released in 1969, is not part of the agreement, according to a statement last week.

The Jefferson Airplane was formed by Balin and Kantner, who added Slick as the vocalist after original lead singer Signe Anderson left because of pregnancy.

The group's second album, "Surrealistic Pillow," was the first to feature Slick.

In the early 1970s, Kaukonen and Casady formed the acoustic blues band Hot Tuna, a side job that eventually removed them from the Airplane.

Slick and Kantner did several projects together and in 1974 formed Jefferson Starship.

Madonna reigns supreme

LONDON, (AP): Madonna's Like A Prayer and Too Many Broken Hearts by Australian soap opera star Jason Donovan held onto the top two spots on the British pop singles chart for the second week in a row.

Paula Abdul's Straight Up moved up three spots to No. 3 and This Time I Know It's For Real by Donna Summer held onto No. 4.

Keep On Movin' by Soul II Soul and Caron Wheeler made its first appearance in the top 10 at No. 5. Another newcomer to the top 10 was Paradise City by Guns n' Roses in ninth spot.

This week's top 10 singles, as listed by OMR Price Music Ltd, the national music retail chain, with last week's placings in brackets:

Top Ten UK

- (1) Like A Prayer — Madonna (Sire)
- (2) Too Many Broken Hearts — Jason Donovan (PWL)
- (3) Straight Up — Paula Abdul (Sire)
- (4) This Time I Know It's For Real — Donna Summer (Warner Bros.)
- (5) Keep On Movin' — Soul II Soul-Caron Wheeler (10 records)
- (6) Stop — Sam Brown (A-and-M)
- (7) Can't Stay Away From You — Gloria Estefan-Miami Sound (CBS)
- (8) Paradise City — Guns n' Roses (Geffen)
- (9) Hey Music Lover — S'p'rt (Rhythm King)
- (10) Baby's Gotten Good At Goodbye — George Strait (MCA)

In New York Mike and the Mechanics stayed at the top of the single pop record charts in the United States with their hit The Living Years.

Eternal Flame by the Bangles soared up three notches to second place on the Cash Box magazine chart. Climbing even faster on the top 10 list was Girl You Know It's True by Milli Vanilli, up from eighth to third.

Last week's number two hit, Debbie Gibson's Lost In Your Eyes, toppled to sixth, while Bobby Brown's — Roni Noveski from third to completely off the top 10 list.

New to the top 10 this week were The Look by Roxette, up from 11th to 7th, and She Drives Me Crazy by the Fine Young Cannibals, up from

16th to 10th.

George Strait jumped to the number one spot on the Cash Box magazine country-and-western singles chart with Baby's Gotten Good At Goodbye. Reba McEntire's New Fool At An Old Game was second, and Down That Road Tonight by the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band was third.

Top Ten US

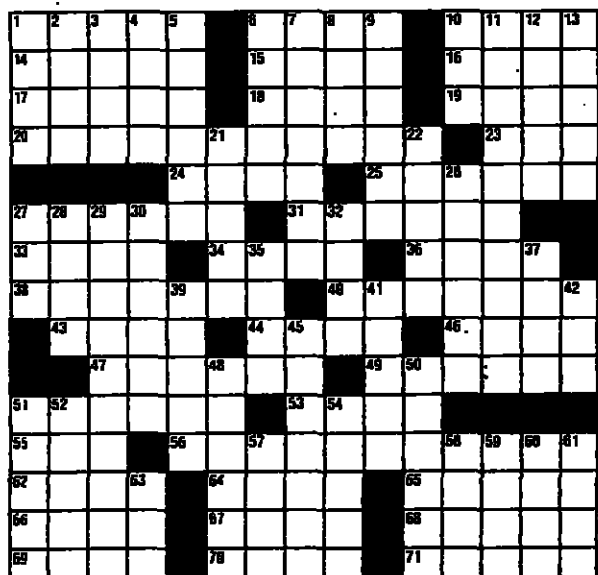
The top 10 pop singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

- (1) The Living Years — Mike and The Mechanics (Atlantic)
- (2) Eternal Flame — The Bangles (Columbia)
- (3) Girl You Know It's True — Milli Vanilli (Arista)
- (4) Paradise City — Guns n' Roses (Geffen)
- (5) My Heart Can't Tell You No — Rod Stewart (Warner Brothers)
- (6) Lost In Your Eyes — Debbie Gibson (Atlantic)
- (7) The Look — Roxette (EMI)
- (8) Walk The Dinosaur — Was (Not Was) (Chrysalis)
- (9) You're Not Alone — Chicago (Warner Brothers)
- (10) She Drives Me Crazy — Fine Young Cannibals (IRS)

The top 10 country-western singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

- (1) Baby's Gotten Good At Goodbye — George Strait (MCA)
- (2) New Fool At An Old Game — Reba McEntire (MCA)
- (3) Down That Road Tonight — Nitty Gritty Dirt Band (Warner Brothers)
- (4) Heartbreak Hill — Emmylou Harris (Reprise)
- (5) I'm No Stranger To The Rain — Keith Whitley (RCA)
- (6) From A Jack To A King — Ricky Van Shelton (Columbia)
- (7) Come As You Were — T. Graham Brown (Capitol)
- (8) From The Word Go — Michael Martin Murphy (Warner Brothers)
- (9) Who You Gonna Blame It On This Time — Vern Gosdin (Columbia)
- (10) There's A Tear In My Beer — Hank Williams Jr. (Duet with Hank Williams Sr.)

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Enjoys the sun
 - Totals
 - Magi's guide
 - Attorney—
 - River into
 - River near Pisa
 - Handy's —
 - Street Blues
 - State positively
 - Large game fish
 - Number Verdi hampered out for "Il Trovatore"
 - Measure
 - Endure
 - What Poe's raven did
 - Kind of road
 - Guarantee
 - Hail, at sea
 - Conductor Akira
 - Soup-to—
 - Press handout
 - Used car
 - Lacquered metalware
 - Listener's response
 - Sea eagle
 - Feel indignation at
 - Made much ado about trifles
 - English photographer-stage designer
 - Red Sea gull
 - Learned skill
 - It has a roll in music making
 - Author of the Oz books
 - Showy flower
 - Stella or Luther
 - Common
 - French verb
 - Go to the bottom
 - Metal shoe fixture
- DOWN**
- Bank transaction
 - Labels
 - Stays fresh
 - Rum Flavored cake
 - Egyptian sun deity
 - Croat or Serb
 - A consort of Siva
 - Ocean waves
 - Oriental nannies
 - Staunchly loyal
 - The — Hunter
 - Makes like a drum major
 - Met in session
 - Musical blowhards?
 - Famous orphan
 - Explorer
 - Amundsen
 - They appear on court calendars
 - Where one can get all steamed up
 - Bluenoses
 - Rhone tributary
 - Guitarist Atkins
 - One who sings at the top of her voice
 - Small, round hole
 - Renown
 - No, in Urm
 - die: Lat.
 - Fabulist of old
 - Cite, with "to"
 - Actor Beatty
 - Postponing
 - Sign up
 - Do a tourist's job
 - Confusion of sounds
 - Muse of love poetry
 - Newsroom workplaces
 - Metropolitan solo
 - Purposeless
 - Away from wind
 - Kind of tide
 - Food scraps
 - Some voters

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

ABET RAMPAGE RIAL
ROLE EDILE ELLA
COSMOPOLIS SLAM
STAPLE ESQUIRE
ELATER ULT
ITERATED PATENT
NORA RIPPER ROO
ERA DISTANT AMA
PAD OLEIN STAS
THIEVE OINTMENT
CUE ENCORE
SPARSER RILLES
ALTO REDEMPTIVE
WEEP OCALA EMIT
SADE STEIN RELS

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
RICHARD L. FREY (1905-1988)

North-South vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 8 7 6 4
♥ Q 10 9
♦ K 5 3
♣ A K 3

WEST
♠ J 5 2
♥ A K 4 3
♦ 9 7 2
♣ 10 8 6

EAST
♠ 10 3
♥ J 8 5
♦ J 10 8 6
♣ 9 7 4 2

SOUTH
♠ A K Q 9
♥ 7 6 2
♦ A Q 4
♣ J 5

The bidding:

North East South West
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: ?

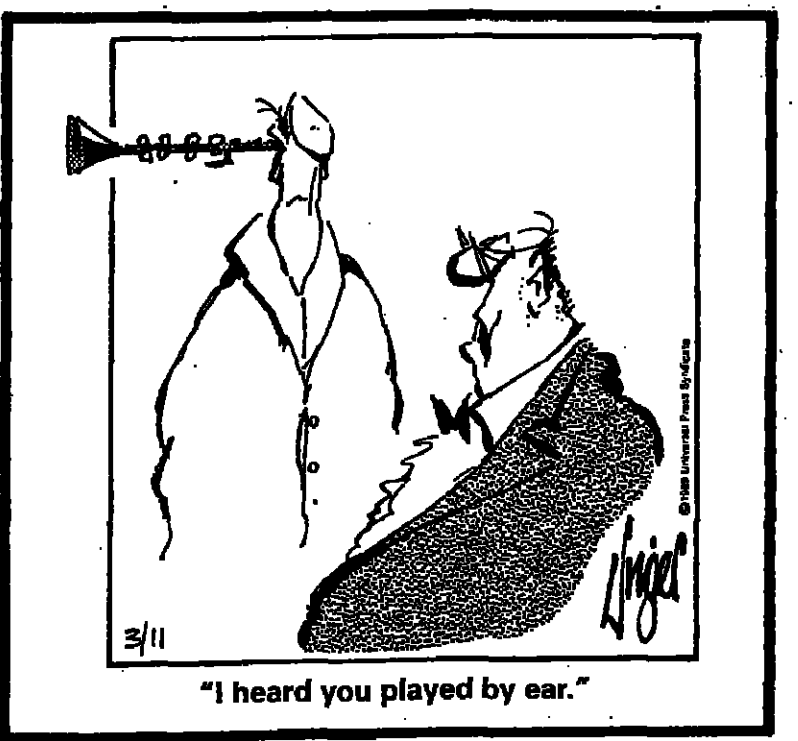
Few people have had greater impact on the game of bridge as a player, writer and editor than the chairman of the Goren Editorial Board, Richard L. Frey, who died Oct. 24 after a long illness. His achievements are too many to catalogue in a bridge column. Suffice it to say that it was his ability as editor that guided many Goren bridge projects from ideas to fulfillment; that it was his training which was responsible for honing the talents of at

least four major bridge writers; and that his playing skill was recognized by the American Contract Bridge League when they instituted the master point plan and conferred upon him one of the ten honorary Life Master titles they awarded. We will miss him sadly and long.

There are many remarkable hands testifying to his prowess as a player. One of our favorites is this quiet hand from a rubber bridge game, in which he held the West cards. We like North's decision to jump to two no trump on his balanced hand even though he had four-card support for his partner's suit. His decision to correct to four spades is less felicitous.

Frey realized that the chances of finding his partner with two tricks were remote. However, he had listened to the bidding, and that brought forth an idea. The queen of hearts was quite probably going to be in the North hand, so he found the devilish opening lead of a low heart.

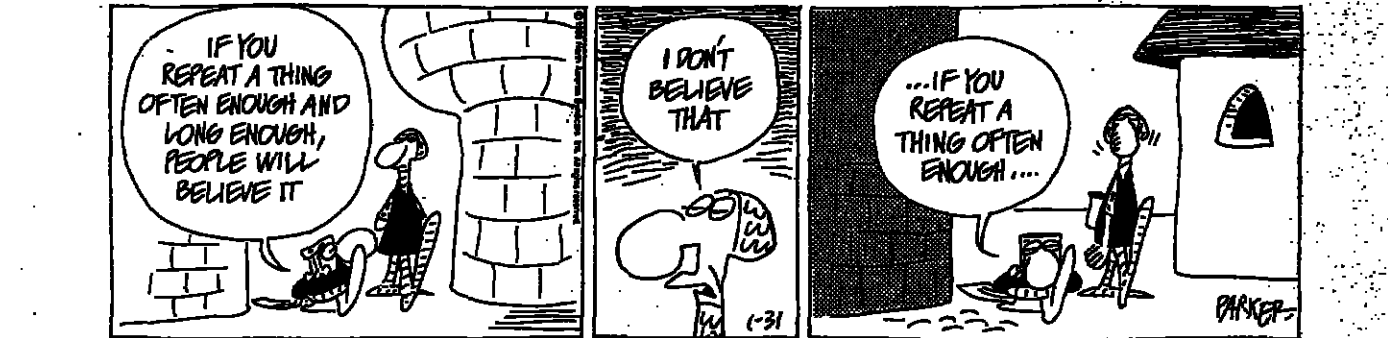
Not surprisingly, declarer played dummy's nine, and an astonished East found his jack held the trick. A heart return allowed West to cash the ace-king. West continued with the 13th heart. East ruffed with the ten and, when declarer overruffed, West's jack was promoted to the setting trick!



"I heard you played by ear."

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.



YOUR STARS

Aries (March 20 - April 18)
You should not feel sorry for yourself, things could be a lot worse. You are liable to drive too fast or to walk without looking where you are going. You should not neglect personal matters. Be patient.

Taurus (April 19 - May 19)
If you wait too long it may be too late to do something you have always wanted to do. You will have plenty to be pleased about. You should make sure that you do not leave others too much in the dark. Your lucky numbers are 23 and 7.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20)
You will be rather reluctant to make changes but there is no way of avoiding all of them. You should not take any underlings; this is not a lucky time for you. Make sure you do not make up your mind without considering all relevant facts.

Cancer (June 21 - July 21)
You will find it easier to accept something that cannot be changed. You will also find it easier to change what cannot remain the same. Avoid becoming involved in what does not concern you. Be courteous.

Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)
You should not allow yourself to confuse what is with what you would like to be. Avoid spending money that you have not got in the hope of a windfall. Do not allow your prejudices to get in the way of an objective judgement. Be tactful.

Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)
You will be in a better mood but will tend to be rather too impulsive. Avoid getting into an argument about a controversial subject. Do not expect others always to do what you would wish them to do. Be firm.

Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)
Mars' better influence will help you to do the right thing at the right time. Try to be a little more sympathetic towards someone who has had some bad luck. Make sure you take enough regular exercise — nothing too vehement.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
The Moon's better influence will help you to see beneath the surface. However, take your intuitions with a pinch of salt. The prospects are better than they seem and there is no reason for excessive pessimism. Be generous.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
You are subject to mixed influences but the situation will tend to improve. You should not expect too much from others. Also avoid acting in the hope that you will have some good luck. Be more cautious.

Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19
You should try to believe a little more kindly towards your enemies; you will be amongst them sooner than you think. You should not allow it to become an obsession. Make sure you eat a balanced diet. Be sincere.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)
You will not be in the best of moods and you should do your best to avoid being rude to others. You will find solace in a hobby but must not allow it to become an obsession. Make sure you eat a balanced diet. Be sincere.

Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)
You should spend a little more time sorting things out in your mind. You will get into a hopeless muddle if you do not. You should not expect too much from others. Also avoid acting in the hope that you will have some good luck. Be more cautious.

مكتبة منى

HEALTH AND MEDICINE

A natural solution to fleeting conceptions

By Christina Doyle

There is new hope for those who have had repeated miscarriages or believe they are infertile.

MANY women sense they are pregnant. Then something goes wrong and the will o' the wisp pregnancy is over, washed away well before thoughts of cots or names begin to surface.

Doctors refer to these fleeting conceptions as "biochemical pregnancies" or, more dramatically, as the result of "a blighted ovum."

For the most part they are probably best put down to life's inexplicable lottery. Nevertheless, some women continue with what might be called "heavy period" miscarriages perhaps three or four times a year. Often, not even realising they have been pregnant, they join the frustrated thousands of infertile couples trailing their "unexplained infertility" around doctors and private clinics for tests.

However, there is growing evidence that with at least some of these couples the woman is quite able to become pregnant, and doctors at St Mary's Hospital in London believe they may be helped by immunising the woman with injections of her husband's or her partner's lymphocytes (white blood cells).

The idea is to correct failure by the mother's immune system to develop the protective antibodies which stop her rejecting her baby as if it were a mismatched transplant. Already more than 30 women have been helped, with some conceiving "naturally" after more than 30 failures with IVF or GIFT — the "test-tube baby" techniques.

The treatment, controversial with some researchers, is being developed by Prof James Mowbray, Prof Richard Beard, Dr Jenny Underwood and colleagues at St Mary's Hospital Medical School in London.

Prof Mowbray recalls one woman "who had 12 to 15 late heavy periods, less than two



Smiles of success: Judith Rose with six-month-old Allison, the baby she had after immunisation treatment at St Mary's Hospital.

weeks late in each case. She and her husband tried very hard to convince doctors that she had been pregnant, but she kept being told 'No, you are infertile.'

"Eventually she got a test and proved she was pregnant about two days before one of these late periods. We immunised her on her 40th birthday and she conceived and carried the baby to full term. Over a year later she was pregnant with twins."

This approach is basically the same as that pioneered by the St Mary's team to help women with repeated early miscarriage between eight and 12 weeks, and who do not develop shielding antibodies. Inexplicably, the difficulty may occur even after a woman has already had one or more healthy babies.

Doctors at the hospital have treated more than 1,300 such couples; other centres in this country and around the world have followed suit during the past few years.

Even though "late period miscarriages" represent uncharted territory, Prof Mowbray decided to explore immunotherapy

because "the IVF clinics kept asking if we could help. They get women whose eggs, tubes and husband's sperm are all fine, yet they have no visible pregnancies despite 20 or 30 egg replacements. Some may get just beyond the first period and then abort."

Studies suggest that the protective antibodies are not detectable in about one in 400 couples trying to have a baby. How they work is unknown, but the reaction is "partner specific," and a woman may produce babies without difficulty with one partner, but miscarry repeatedly with another.

But the failure to make antibodies is not due, as once thought, to similarities in the mother's and father's tissue types. Why injections of the father's white blood cells into the mother work is not clear; they appear to stimulate manufacture of what are called "antipaternal" antibodies.

The St Mary's team have strict criteria for selecting couples with repeated miscarriage for treatment. There must be no evidence

of protective antibodies, three consecutive early miscarriages with the same partner (and no more than one previous live baby), and other genetic or anatomical causes of miscarriage must also be ruled out.

Much the same will apply to women with repeated heavy cycle pregnancy loss. The acid test is to demonstrate that the initial implantation of the fertilised egg in the womb can occur.

Women who suspect that very heavy "late period miscarriages" may be problem should try to get positive pregnancy checks with a do-it-yourself kit, says Prof Mowbray. "There are still quite a large number of women who do not realise that home pregnancy tests can be positive when a period is as little as two days late."

Judith Rose, 35, now has a "wonderful" six-month-old baby daughter despite having two eight- to 10-week miscarriages in 1983 and 1985. Her gynaecologist refused to refer her for immunisation, despite her insistence that she had had several heavy period mis-

carriages. "I suspected that immunisation was the answer, and was getting quite obsessive, feeling time slipping away. I kept on being told: 'Keep trying, come back in three months.'"

"Eventually I sought a second opinion privately at the Park Hospital in Nottingham. The consultant immediately referred me to St Mary's and I conceived about 12 months after the injection."

At least half of the women treated for heavy late cycles were successfully pregnant within six months, and Prof Mowbray speculates that immunological "infertility" may account for five to 10 per cent of unexplained infertility seen in IVF clinics. There are around 250,000 infertile people in England and Wales, with no apparent cause in about one in four cases.

Yet some critics insist that the benefits of immunotherapy are overplayed and that many women with recurrent miscarriage do eventually get pregnant. But a new unpublished study backs previous estimates that after three or more miscarriages with the same partner, chances of a live baby decline to one in four. The St Mary's team are satisfied that with treatment it may be boosted to between 77 and 80 per cent.

Despite an American report of risks to babies, Prof Mowbray insists that both birthweight and incidence of abnormality "are no different after immuno-therapy to those found in the normal population". Twins, however, are almost twice as common.

On another tack, critics speculate about long-term risks to the mother. In one species of mouse, lymphocyte injections were followed by abnormal growths. There is no evidence of this in humans. Dr Underwood compares the risks of immunotherapy with those of blood transfusions.

Prof. Mowbray's work is supported by a Harris Birthright research grant from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and smiling baby pictures on the walls reflect the technique's success. But if childbirth is something of a lottery, so too are the very patchy NHS infertility services.

At £450, immunotherapy is relatively cheap. Although couples in St Mary's catchment area may receive it through the NHS, those referred from other regions must pay, which is not in keeping with the new "internal market" brooms which are supposed to be sweeping through the NHS.

don't need one," he said. "But people take a multivitamin and then feel better about having a poor diet. They say, 'I know I'm eating too much fat and not enough fruits and vegetables,' but now I don't have to worry about my vitamins. That's not doing any good. In fact, it's doing harm," he said.

Megadoses of vitamins have been promoted as being beneficial for a multitude of purposes, including increasing virility to slowing the ageing process. But most experts agree the claims are unsubstantiated.

Experts agree certain segments of the population probably need dietary supplements on a regular basis, such as young children, the elderly, people with certain illnesses and women who need iron or calcium. But nutritionists say these groups should consult their doctors to find out what they need.

And while there is a growing body of scientific research indicating certain vitamins may protect against certain cancers, most researchers agree there is not enough evidence yet to recommend people take vitamins for that purpose.

"We've got a lot of suggestive evidence — some of it quite compelling," said Blumberg.

Allergies to blame for all asthma

BOSTON (AP): Virtually all asthma attacks are triggered by allergies, concludes a new study that challenges the widely held belief that the condition in adults usually has non-allergic causes.

Traditionally, experts have categorized asthma as having both allergic and non-allergic forms. Allergic asthma was considered to be the most common type in children and young adults, while older people were usually thought to have non-allergic asthma.

The latest work, based on tests of 2,657 people, suggests that all asthma victims have the allergic variety regardless of their age.

"This helps us to understand better why allergic and non-allergic asthma look so much the same," said Dr Benjamin Burrows. "It's all the same disease."

Burrows, a researcher at the University of Arizona college of medicine, published his results in an issue of the New England Journal of Medicine.

His team's conclusions were based largely on measurements of an antibody called immunoglobulin E, or IGE, which plays a key role in the allergic response that leads to asthma. Young people with asthma have high amounts of IGE, but these levels drop as people get older.

The latest study found that although older asthmatics' IGE levels seem low when compared with children's they are still higher than those of adults without asthma. The researchers concluded that because of the adults' relatively high IGE levels, their asthma was caused by allergies.

They noted that routine skin tests used to pinpoint the cause of allergies frequently fail to show anything wrong. Burrows said this is probably because the tests do not include the specific substance — called an allergen — that is triggering the attacks.

By Rob Stein

BOSTON, (UPI): At least half of all Americans take vitamins and other dietary supplements on a regular basis, but many nutritionists say most adults do not need them.

"What most people ought to do is really pay attention to their diet," said Jeffrey Blumberg, assistant director of the Agriculture Department Human Nutrition Research Centre on Ageing at Tufts University in Boston.

Americans spend an estimated \$3 billion each year on nutritional supplements, such as one-a-day vitamins.

But in the latest of a series of assaults on the use of such supplements, the National Research Council recently recommended most people avoid dietary supplements.

"We do not recommend taking supplements," said Dr Arno Motulsky, who headed the committee that issued the report. "We are worried that taking large doses could have negative impacts."

Organic vitamins are organic molecules that must be consumed in the diet in very small amounts to help the body grow and function. But taken in large

Vitamins... who needs them?

doses, some vitamins can be toxic.

The committee urged people to eat a carefully balanced diet, from which they easily should be able to get the recommended daily allowances of vitamins and minerals.

But Annette Dickinson, of the Council for Responsible Nutrition, a trade association representing vitamin-makers, disputed the recommendations against the use of dietary supplements.

"The bottom line on all this is people are not doing all the things the recommendations say they should be doing. Surveys show that most people do have nutrient gaps. Supplements can help fill those gaps," Dickinson said.

Although vitamins taken in large doses can potentially be toxic, taking a daily multivitamin is safe and insures that an individual is getting at least their daily requirements, she said.

Moreover, studies have shown that in addition to maintaining good health, certain vitamins may protect against a variety of forms of cancers and other diseases, Dickinson said.

Acknowledging

While acknowledging that unless someone takes megadoses of vitamins there is relatively no danger, many nutritionists oppose the use of dietary supplements for most people because it may result in people abdicating responsibility for what they eat.

"I think most people (take vitamins) because of advertising from the vitamin supplement people," said John Erdman, a professor of food science at the University of Illinois in Urbana.

"Most of us have enough uneasiness or guilt about how we eat that we think we fall into that category (of not getting the recommended daily allowances). Therefore for safety purposes we take a multivitamin. Most of us

FAMILY DOCTOR By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

QUESTION: I recently overheard the term "Pickwickian Syndrome" mentioned. As a lover of the works of Charles Dickens, I know there must be a tale here somewhere. Will you share it with your readers?

ANSWER: Yes, I'm aware of the syndrome. It's a commonly encountered situation in medical practice. The condition consists of obesity, sleep apnea (a sleep disturbance in which breathing stops for 10 seconds or more, sometimes more than 300 times a night), impaired respiration, heart failure and daytime drowsiness, occurs in about 10 per cent of obese adults, but is rare in obese children.

The name for the syndrome was first suggested by Sir William Osler and was more fully described by Drs C.S. Burwell, E.D. Robin and R.D. Whaley in a paper that appeared in the American Journal of Medicine in 1956. It is based upon the Char-

LITERARY REFERENCE CAME FROM DICKENS

les Dickens'. "The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwickian Club," written in 1837, in which he describes a character that goes by the name of Joe, a "fat, red-faced boy in a state of somnolency." Joe goes to deliver a message, knocking loudly at the door. By the time the occupants answer the summons, Joe has fallen asleep and is found standing at the entrance, snoring.

Since heavy snoring, as well as compulsive eating and headache, are symptoms of the syndrome, Dickens' description seemed appropriate, and Osler's suggestion has been widely accepted. Medical students still dutifully memorize all the signs and symptoms involved as the Pickwickian Syndrome.

I THOUGHT YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW: Even a superficial reading of my mail can convince you that communication between doctors and patients ranks right up

there as a priority consideration. Admittedly, the process of examination, testing and treatment is a costly one, and everyone is entitled to their money's worth, but understanding the problem can do as much to relieve the symptoms, anxiety and fear as medicine can.

The science of medicine is enormously complicated, and there is not always a black-and-white explanation of the workings of disease, or the reasons some medications work for some people and fail in others. There are times when the physician is as puzzled as the patient.

That's why, from my point of view, direct, personal and caring communication may well be the best medicine. But perhaps you should take the first step and find out how to obtain the knowledge you need from your doctor.

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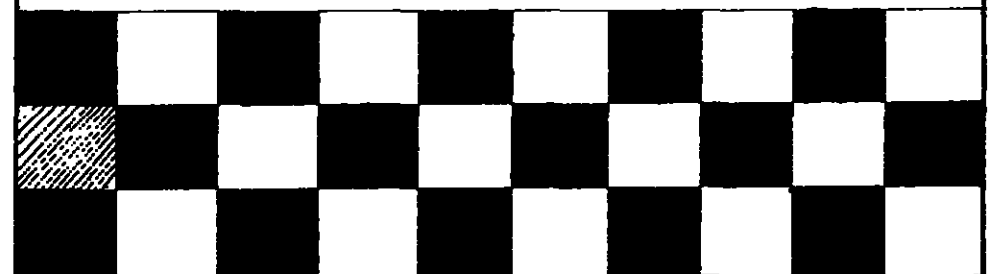
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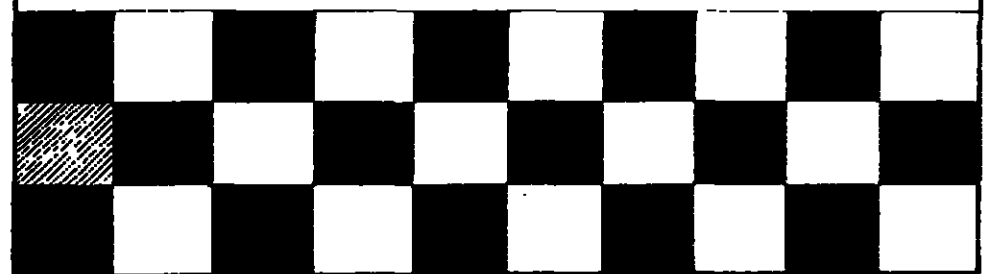
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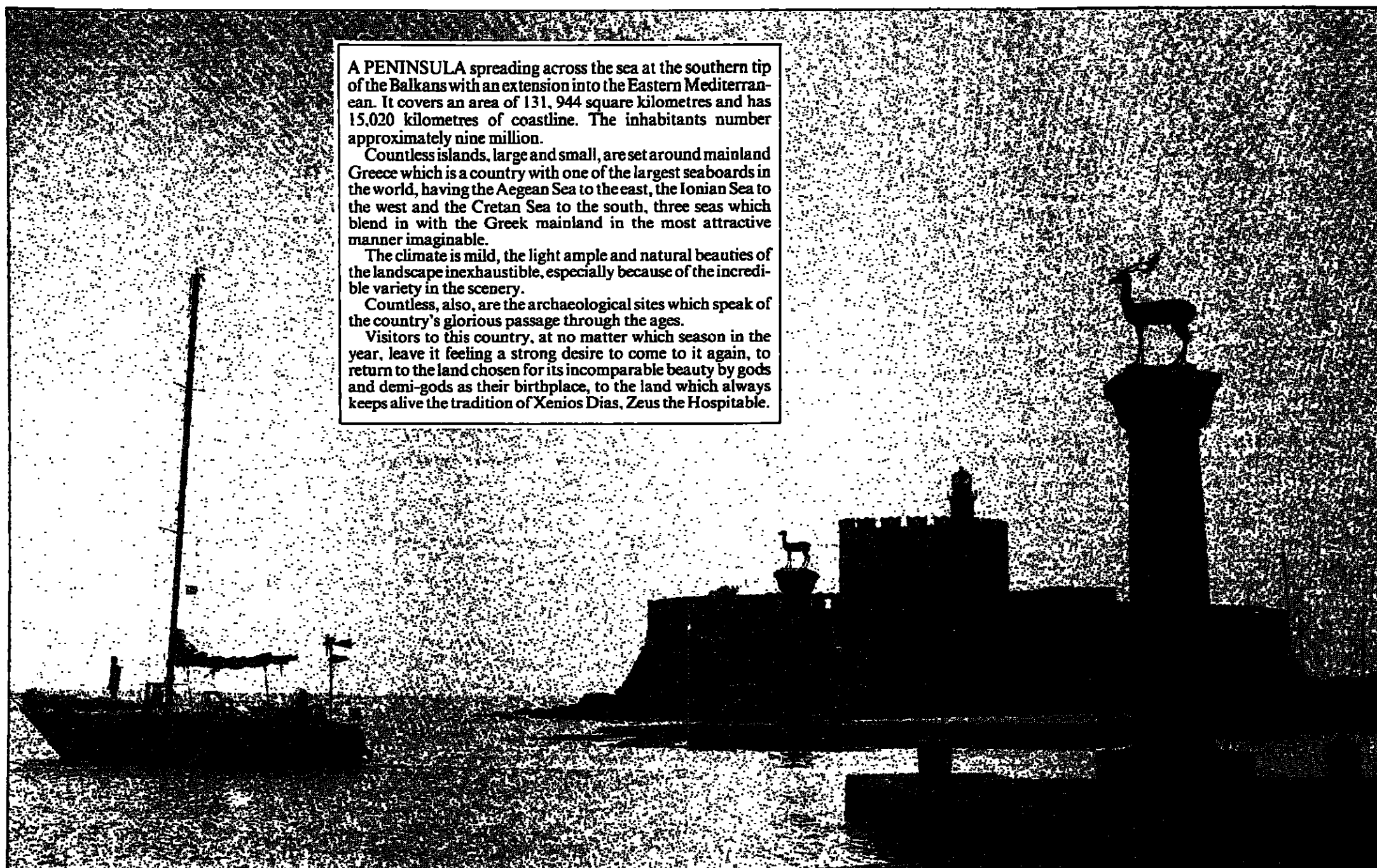
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NATIONAL DAY OF GREECE

AN ARAB TIMES SUPPLEMENT

Greece: a land favoured by the gods



A PENINSULA spreading across the sea at the southern tip of the Balkans with an extension into the Eastern Mediterranean. It covers an area of 131,944 square kilometres and has 15,020 kilometres of coastline. The inhabitants number approximately nine million.

Countless islands, large and small, are set around mainland Greece which is a country with one of the largest seaboards in the world, having the Aegean Sea to the east, the Ionian Sea to the west and the Cretan Sea to the south, three seas which blend in with the Greek mainland in the most attractive manner imaginable.

The climate is mild, the light ample and natural beauties of the landscape inexhaustible, especially because of the incredible variety in the scenery.

Countless, also, are the archaeological sites which speak of the country's glorious passage through the ages.

Visitors to this country, at no matter which season in the year, leave it feeling a strong desire to come to it again, to return to the land chosen for its incomparable beauty by gods and demi-gods as their birthplace, to the land which always keeps alive the tradition of Xenios Dias, Zeus the Hospitable.

Greek-Kuwait relations

Ties based on mutual respect

I WOULD, first of all, like to extend my sincere thanks to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait for conveying his good wishes on our National Day. It might be appropriate, on the occasion, to express good wishes to His Highness the Amir, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, the Kuwaiti Government, our Kuwaiti brothers and the Greek nationals residing in Kuwait.

Greek-Kuwaiti relations have steadily progressed during the years since 1961. Relations in many spheres, economic, political, cultural and others, have been forged in a spirit of mutual respect, adherence to the international principles and values aiming also at promoting the national interests of both countries and helping both peoples achieve a higher standard of living. I hope that the existing very friendly ties are more enhanced in the years to come.

March 25, 1989, marks the 168th anniversary of Greece's independence. It is with great respect and admiration, on this auspicious occasion, that we remember the toil and sacrifice of our ancestors who made freedom possible for a country which, since time immemorial, has contributed to mankind eternal values like liberty, democracy and respect of the



Constantine L. Tsokos, Ambassador of Greece to Kuwait.

human rights.

Our faith in the patriotism of all Greeks, wherever on this planet they may live, gives us certainty in our national future and survival. There can be no doubt in anyone's mind that our peace-loving country, reminiscent of its historical past, puts the national freedom on the top of the scale of values, together with its commitment to the preservation of national independence and integrity.

It is reassuring indeed, that in this materialistic and competitive era, both Greek and Kuwaiti Governments are working hard, on many occasions jointly, to preserve the traditional and cultural heritage and encourage continued development in the arts and sciences. This attitude should serve as an example to others and will possibly make the world safer and worthwhile living in.

Long live Greece. Long live Greek-Kuwaiti friendship and understanding.

Message of
Constantine L. Tsokos,
Ambassador of Greece

Top quality products and services

Exports: Greece has a lot to offer

Modern Greece not only produces a wide range of agricultural and industrial products but also exports sizeable quantities to all parts of the world.

THERE is, of course, no need for anyone to single the praises of Greece for its long history, its contribution to human civilisations, its Parthenon, sunshine, clear skies, blue seas and the hospitality of its inhabitants. Obviously it would be superfluous because all the world has access to them, especially the millions of tourists who visit the country every year as a pilgrimage to its past and to its beauty, a pleasant break in the humdrum of daily routine.

It is, however, necessary to recommend the virility of the country's modern productive potential, or better still to arrange a conducted tour of the vast beehive where entrepreneurial brains, scientific achievement and management ability co-operate closely with the labour force and modern technology to give the country and foreign markets a series of top quality products and services.

Important exports
Modern Greece does not only produce a wide range of agricultural and industrial products but also exports sizeable quantities to all parts of the world ranging

from nations with the most advanced economies to those now in process of developing them. Greece is in a position to offer even more, at competitive prices, thanks to a favourable geographical position, close to the large consuming centres of Europe, the Middle East and Africa and also thanks to its adequate transportation facilities.

What goods does Greece export to-day? Primarily manufactured goods. The intensified concentration of industrial development has achieved 64 per cent of the total export market for manufactured goods. Mineral ores and quarry products account for a further 6 per cent of Greece's exports.

In second place, farm products, and the products of livestock and fish have now stabilised at about 30 per cent of total exports.

As a whole, Greek exports have followed a continuous upward trend. In 1975, they valued \$2,030 million, in 1976 \$2,227 million and in 1977 \$2,516 million, despite the depressed state of the world market and the slump



Greece produces cotton thread of a very high quality.

in demand. Foreign currency earnings from exports increased by 44 per cent in 1974 over 1973, 10.4 per cent in 1975 over 1974 and 13.7 per cent in 1976 over 1975.

During the period when efforts to penetrate foreign markets were redoubled, certain changes occurred in the geographical distribution of Greek exports. These changes took the form of a weakening of the relative importance of the US and non-EEC markets as consumers of Greek products and a strengthening of the importance of COMECON markets and


markets outside Europe. The EEC absorbed approximately the same share of total Greek exports in 1976 as it had done in 1974. This does not imply that the EEC does not still absorb the lion's share of Greek exports. The countries of the Middle East and Africa come second as a group followed by those of Eastern Europe, the USA and others.

A glance at the export products themselves is worthwhile. It is a long list but outstanding items can soon be picked out.

Manufactured goods: The products of the large sector — textiles, furs, carpets, readymade clothes. Latest available records cover the January-September 1977 nine-month period. Exports of such goods valued about \$375 million, compared with \$321 million in 1976. In order of importance behind these were cement, chemicals, petroleum products, steel products and tubing, furniture and wooden goods, plastic products, leather, footwear, canned foodstuffs, ornaments, various handicrafts, electrical household appliances, vehicles etc.



Canned food is a popular Greek export.



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SPORTS

Evert defeats Rinaldi in Players tennis championship

Noah struggles to advance into third round

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla., March 24 (Reuters). Yannick Noah, the 12th seed from France, needed three hours and 15 minutes to defeat a qualifier in the second-round match at the 2.1-million International Players' Championships yesterday.

Noah struggled with fatigue and other distractions to recover from being down 1-2 in sets and 4-6 in the first set, but he eventually won 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

Noah's serve was off form in the first two sets, but picked up after he managed 19 aces in the match. Scamlon played hard, flat balls from the baseline, passing the athletic Frenchman, who looked sluggish and easily rattled by a couple of questionable line calls.

Fought

Noah fought back from 1-4 down in the first set but was broken for the set 6-4 on a forehand pass by Scamlon.

Noah recovered some of his form in the second set to clinch it narrowly 7-5, hitting nine aces in service games including the first of the third set. But the Frenchman's concentration seemed to fade again as he double-faulted, then dropped serve in the

eight game to trail 5-3. Scamlon served out the third set 6-3 with a passing shot.

Noah found a new breath of life in the fourth set, winning it easily 6-1 after surviving a crucial break point in the third game. Scamlon began to make errors, quickly letting the set go 6-1 as Noah won it on a backhand volley.

A double fault in the fifth game of the final set, sent Scamlon two break points down and was the beginning of the end for the American.

Tired

"That's the important part, but I'm glad I won," Noah said. "I think I was a little bit tired from the beginning, but physically, it was a good match."

Scamlon, 32, who is back from his second virtual retirement, having taken a hiatus for each of the last two summers, said he was just out there for fun.

"I was just having a blast," said Scamlon, who admitted he is playing some of the best tennis of his career. "That's the kind of stuff I used to do back in the early eighties. I rethink my life every morning when I wake up."

"Even the disappointments I've come to love. You think of the joy of victory and the agony

of defeat. If they weren't both there it would be boring," Scamlon said.

In another match Mats Wilander moved another step closer to regaining his winning form as he posted a straight-set win yesterday to reach the third round.

Wilander, the world number two and defending champion, beat big-serving American Scott Warner 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (7-1) in his second-round match.

Top-seeded Gabriela Sabatini also erased any lingering doubts stemming from her third-round ouster in a tournament last week by scoring an impressive 6-0 6-0 shutout of Catherine Surie of France in her second-round match.

Defeat

Second-seeded Chris Evert and her fourth-seeded fellow-American fourth seed Pam Shriver also advanced on the women's side, while fifth-seeded Swiss Jakob Hlasek and number seven Thomas Muster of Austria were among other men's winners.

Seeded players to fall included number 13 Sylvia Hanika of West Germany, a 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 loser to American Halle Cioffi, and Swede Anders Jarryd, the

19th seed who lost 2-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 to Leo Lave of Mexico.

Wilander, after a miserable start this year marked by a second-round defeat in the Australian Open and a first-round loss in the WCT finals, appears to be finding the form that brought him the top world ranking last year.

The Swede, made quick work of Warner, a qualifier, in the first set, but had to rally from 1-3 down and game point down to take the second set.

Warner, ranked 340th, stayed on serve with Wilander in the third set to force a tiebreak, which the Swede took 7-1 on five careless errors from his inexperienced opponent.

Wilander, who is working on his condition with Joe Breedlove, the former fitness coach of Martina Navratilova, said the key to the match came when he held Warner off in the second set.

Danger

"I played as well as I could. When I was in danger, I played well. I was returning very well and that helped against such a big server," said Wilander.

Evert fought off a set point at 5-6 in the first set before beating compatriot Kathy Rinaldi 7-6 (7-3), 6-4 in a two-hour eight-minute

match that featured long baseline rallies, while Shriver served-and-volleyed her way past Shaun Stafford 6-4, 6-3 in another all-American match.

Sabatini, third in the world, abandoned her usual baseline style for a more aggressive serve-and-volley game which worked effectively as she blanked Surie, 149th in the world.

The Argentine, top seed for the first time in a 120-player draw, said she was feeling more confident with her game.

"My game is back with a lot of confidence, and I'm ready to win the tournament," Sabatini said.

On Wednesday, Ivan Lendl's mind wandered, but not his tennis game.

The world's top-ranked men's player remained unbeaten on hardcourts with a straight-set victory over Jim Pugh.

The second-round triumph improved Lendl's record to 15-1 this year, and the Australian Open champion is 14-0 in three tournaments played on hardcourts.

The 6-3, 6-1, 6-1 score reflected the difference between No. 1 and No. 75. Lendl felt it didn't tell the whole story. Despite playing well, he struggled to remain focused on the match.



Noah struggles to win

English soccer clubs unite to fight against identity cards

LONDON, March 24 (Reuters). A government plan to beat soccer hooliganism by making supporters in England carry identity cards has met fierce opposition from people within the game who say it will bankrupt many clubs.

"Football clubs are very resilient, if they survive this they'll survive anything," said Graham Kelly, chief executive of the English Football Association (FA).

He believes the scheme will be costly to set up and cut crowds.

However, Sports Minister John Major is convinced it will end match-day violence and attract more spectators and sponsors.

"It is a life-saver for many of the clubs and an income earner for many," he told Reuters.

The card will allow fans to pass through the gates of all 92 English League grounds. Those caught carrying trouble will have their cards confiscated, stopping them from getting into matches.

Separate

"It will simply and clearly separate the true football supporter from the hooligan and remove the focus for violence which a number of matches have recently become," said Major.

He hopes the identity card scheme, part of the football spectator bill, will come into force by early 1990.

Kelly believes the government is the hooligan problem out of respect, citing arrest figures of football-related offences over the last three seasons which were out at only 0.03 per cent of total attendance figures.

He points out that any violent incidents between fans now often occur some distance away from the stadium and insists that disorder among young people is a problem of society as a whole.

Major, however, maintains that football's hooligan problem is largely self-generated.

"The vast majority of people involved in violence at football matches go through ritualistic behavior that they would never be involved in outside football," he said.

Cost

A study by Management Consultants Arthur Young for the FA estimates the scheme will cost between £25-38 million (43-60 million) to set up.

Clubs fear a 25 per cent cut in attendances as casual supporters and those opposed to the cards will be deterred.

Major says a number of companies are prepared to set up a scheme at no cost if they can advertise on cards and have access to membership lists for marketing purposes.

The soccer authorities are also concerned that electronic "reading" of cards will cause massive delays at turnstiles and increase the risk of disorder outside grounds, a view shared by police officers with experience of riot control.

Petition

The sports minister has seen a copy of the new turnstiles and said: "The mechanics of the system will work and will work effectively."

Opposition to the cards has to come from the Football Supporters' Association (FSA), a nationwide organisation representing fans.

The FSA has collected a 9,000-signature petition at a first-division soccer match and has thousands of supporters held up by cards bearing the legend send yonihun off."

Samuth draws to retain IBF strawweight title

JAKARTA, Indonesia, March 24 (AP). Samuth Sithanarupol of Thailand retained his International Boxing Federation strawweight title last night after his defence against Indonesia's Nio Thomas ended in a draw.

The 12-round fight was ruled a draw although judge Leon Johannes of Indonesia scored 117-113 in favour of Thomas. Judge John Cauchi of Australia scored it 117-117, and judge Esmeraldo Medroso of the Philippines had it 115-115.

It was Samuth's second title defence since winning the crown last March 24 by stopping

"Pretty Boy" Lucas of the Philippines. In his first title defence last Aug. 28, Samuth outpointed South Korean in Kyu Hwang.

With yesterday's draw, the Thai Army sergeant's professional record is 34-10-2. Thomas is 11-0-3.

Fighting before about 5,000 spectators at Jakarta's Senayan Sports Palace, the two boxers began their 12-round bout without significant actions in the first round.

Entering the second round, the two southpaws came right into a real fight, and the 23-year-old Thomas got his best chance when

his hard punches forced the champion back into the ropes.

However, the 29-year-old Samuth was saved by the gong when Thomas managed to wobble him through a series of hard straight and jabs near the ropes in the second round.

Thomas pursued the champion from corner to corner, and dominated the fight before Samuth fought back to lead the 4th round by a narrow margin.

At the end of 6th round Thomas managed to get in a clean left hook, wobbling the champion back into the ropes, but his following punches were

blocked.

The two then seemed to match each other in 5th, 7th, 8th and 11th rounds.

They were still fighting impressively in the remaining rounds, but neither got a knockout punch.

Samuth took home the equivalent of \$35,000 and Thomas got \$9,000.

Among undercards for the title bout were two 10-round non-title bouts, pitting another boxer from both countries. All four were among the top 10 contenders in the Orient and Pacific Boxing Federation.

Spain ensure a place in World Cup soccer finals

SEVILLE, Spain, March 24 (Reuters). Spain virtually assured themselves of a place in the World Cup soccer finals in Italy next year when they beat Malta 4-0 in a qualifying match on Thursday.

Spain have now won all five matches played so far in European Group Six with a tally of 14 goals for and none against. Although Hungary and Ireland can still theoretically take the first two qualifying spots, Spain look certain to qualify.

Despite the scoreline Spain's performance on Thursday lacked sparkle.

Malta, with memories of a 12-1 defeat here six years ago, packed their defence and held the Spanish until the 38th minute.

Then Real Madrid midfielder Michel Gonzalez, celebrating his 26th birthday with an outstanding performance, scored from a swerving free kick.

Malta suffered a further blow one minute before the interval when striker Michael Degorgio was sent off after a foul on Manolo Sanchez.

Spain began to find gaps in the Maltese defence in the second half and a penalty from Michel made it 2-0 in the 68th minute after Edwin Cammilleri had handled the ball.

Malta were preoccupied with protesting an off-side decision when Eloy Oloya, substituting for Aitor Beguiristain, produced a fine cross with almost his first touch of the ball for Manolo Sanchez to head home in the 71st minute.

Sanchez scored again nine minutes later with a diving header after a superbly angled pass from Michel.

Standings

Group Six standings (top two qualify) tabulate under played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points:

Spain	5	5	0	14	0	10
Hungary	3	1	2	3	2	4
N. Ireland	5	1	1	3	7	3
Ireland	3	0	2	0	2	2
Malta	4	0	13	2	11	1

Remaining matches: April 12: Hungary v Malta; April 26: Malta v Northern Ireland; Ireland v Spain; May 28: Ireland v Malta; June 4: Ireland v Hungary; Sept 6: Northern Ireland v Hungary; Oct 11: Hungary v Spain; Ireland v Northern Ireland; Nov 15: Spain v Hungary, Malta v Ireland.

Cavaliers clinch win over Bucks in NBA game

NEW YORK, March 24 (AP). Ron Harper had 21 points, Brad Daugherty 20 and Larry Nance 19 last night in leading the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 102-88 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks, who played without top scorer Terry Cummings.

Cleveland, 49-18, leads the Detroit Pistons by one-half game in the Central Division of the National Basketball Association. The Cavaliers are 31-3 at home.

Milwaukee's 88 points was the team's lowest of the season. Cummings, who leads the Bucks with a 23.8 average, was unable to play due to a virus. The Bucks also were without Paul Pressey, on the injured list with a sprained ankle.

The Cavaliers' 49 victories match the team's season high in 19 NBA seasons. They also won 49 games in the 1975-76 season.

Jack Sikma finished with 21 points. Rickey Pierce and Krysztowski each added 16 for Milwaukee.

Stay alive

Washington's Bernard King scored six of his 29 points during a 14-5 run to open the second half as the Bulls beat the Charlotte Hornets 102-97. The win broke a two-game losing streak and helped the Bulls stay alive in their race with the Celtics for the final

playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. Washington trails Boston by 2-1/2 games.

Dale Ellis of the Supersonics scored 10 of his 39 points in the fourth quarter, including a go-ahead layup with 41 seconds left as Seattle beat the Los Angeles Clippers 115-112.

Magic Johnson had 25 points, 14 assists and 10 rebounds as the Los Angeles Lakers won for the 18th time in 20 meetings with the Sacramento Kings, this time 115-92.

Tom Chambers scored 33 points and Dan Majerle added 25 as Phoenix rode a near record 25-point opening half to snap the Warriors' four-game winning streak. The Suns beat the Warriors 154-124 while putting together the second highest point total in the NBA this season, one less than Golden State had against Sacramento on March 4.

Meanwhile, it was an evening of upsets yesterday as four underdogs advanced in the postseason College Basketball Tournament, and No. 1-ranked teams fell.

Ten-ranked Michigan, under a coach who took over only as the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament began, beat fifth-ranked North Carolina 92-87 in the southeast regional semifinals.

Perez TKOs Hammond to retain crown

IRVINE, California, March 24 (AP). Boxer Thomas Perez, who controlled the bout from the first bell, scored a 10th-round technical knockout over Royan Hammond Thursday night to retain his California super welterweight title.

Ringside physician Dr. Michael Deluca would not allow an exhausted Hammond to come out for the 11th round in the scheduled 12-round state championship bout held in Irvine, California.

Trapped

Perez, of the United States, was in control from the first round when he sent Hammond reeling with a series of strong rights. Hammond, also of the United States, spent much of the fight trapped on the ropes as Perez pummeled him.

Perez, ranked No. 21 by the World Boxing Council and No. 1 by the North American Boxing Federation, improved to 21-3, with 14 knockouts. It was his second successful defence of a title he won in August 1988 by defeating Kenny Lopez.

Real resume hunt for League title

SPAIN, March 24 (Reuters). League leaders Real Madrid resume their hunt for the Spanish soccer title on Sunday without West German midfielder Bernd Schuster, and possibly international striker Emilio Butragueno.

The uncompromising Schuster sits out the visit of Valladolid to the Bernabeu — where the mid-table side has not won for 33 years — after being suspended as a result of four bookings.

But Butragueno's role in the match could provide the major talking point when the League programme resumes following last weekend's cancellation for Spain's World Cup qualifying match against Malta.

Real coach Leo Benhakker allowed Butragueno just five minutes of action in last week's European Cup quarterfinal victory over Dutch holders PSV Eindhoven, much to the dismay of the striker's adoring fans.

The Spanish international faces another spell on the bench on Sunday — Benhakker has not indicated whether

European soccer roundup

Butragueno will start against Valladolid — and some newspapers have already speculated the player may be seeking a move.

Encounters

Much was made this week of a brief encounter between Butragueno and a senior executive at Barcelona, even though the striker insists he wants to stay in Madrid.

Coach Johan Cruyff will be without an international striker of his own when he takes his Barcelona side to Seville to face struggling Betis.

Barcelona, who trail Real by three points, will be without Jose Bakero, who discovered this week he needs surgery to correct an ankle injury and could be out for four months.

Lowly PEC Swolle will brace themselves for the backlash when they entertain injury-riddled champions Eindhoven PSV, beaten 4-1 at home by Ajax last weekend before their loss to Real.

Goalkeeper Hans van Breukelen, striker Juul Ellerman and

defenders Adick Koot and Ivan Nielsen are among PSV's first choice players under treatment.

Striker Wim Kieft, out with a knee injury since January, may return to face PEC along with defender Berry van Aerle. Trainer Gius Hiddink said: "People consider us vulnerable right now. But based on quality, we should win."

Table-topping PSV lead Ajax by four points but Hiddink added: "We can't afford to lose a single point."

In Portugal, comfortable leaders Benfica and second-placed Porto face tough away matches at relegated, threatened opponents, Benfica travel to Beira Mar while Porto meet Leixoes, knowing that six points adrift with only eight games left, they cannot afford any mistakes.

Marseille hope to profit from the inevitable travel-weariness of visitors Nantes — they travelled to Guyana in midweek to play Geldar Kourou in a French Cup tie — as they bid to bounce back to the top of the French First Division.

Graham bids to breathe life into Arsenal for final surge

LONDON, March 24 (Reuters). Arsenal manager George Graham attempts to breathe life into his side's faltering charge for the English soccer championship this weekend, keenly aware that history is in his favour.

With their confidence visibly seeping away, Arsenal travel to struggling Southampton tomorrow knowing that only once in the last six years has the side top of the First Division at the start of the Easter holiday weekend failed to win the title.

Setback

That was three years ago, when Liverpool snatched the crown after lying second to Everton at Easter. But generally, the top four placings after little before the holiday period and the end of the season.

With the League leaders having won just once in their last six

games, Graham will draw cold comfort from that fact.

Arsenal's latest setback came at Highbury on Tuesday when they were held 2-2 by struggling Charlton to remain three points clear of second-placed Norwich, who have two games in hand.

"It's so sad," Graham said. "Before Christmas we were playing scintillating football and had loads of confidence. We seem to be losing it too quickly."

"We're making individual errors and individuals are not playing anywhere near their potential. The combination of both is putting us under a bit of pressure."

He added: "We're just looking vulnerable. We have always had the reputation of being difficult to play. Now we are not."

Arsenal, chasing their first championship since 1971, do not

play on Monday and Norwich will be boosted by their win over West Ham on Wednesday which put them in the semifinals of the FA Cup for the first time in 30 years.

Unbeaten

But it is fourth-placed Liverpool who could yet emerge Arsenal's biggest rivals. The reigning champions are unbeaten in 11 games and travel to Tottenham on Sunday having scored 15 goals and conceded none in their last four games.

Liverpool won 3-1 at Coventry on Wednesday night and now trail Arsenal by eight points with two games in hand. The two heavyweights of the championship are due to clash in what could prove the title eliminator on April 23 at Anfield.

Norwich assistant manager David Williams can see the race

building to a thrilling finish. But despite Liverpool's tremendous form he thinks the champions have a very difficult task in front of them.

He said: "We still have to meet Liverpool, Nottingham Forest, Coventry and Arsenal, while the other sides also clash with each other and that will be significant."

"One team could get a real fluff or we will all cut each other up."

"Liverpool have certainly caught the eye in recent weeks but they still have a lot to do."

Difficult

"I don't like to talk about points and it's difficult to assess what is required because there is no comparison — this is the first season we've been limited to 38 games."

"But realistically you're looking towards the 73 point mark as a minimum to win the title."

Timman wins chess tourney

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands, March 24 (AP). Holland's Jan Timman kept Soviet grandmaster Valery Salov to a draw with black in final-round action to take the 15,000-guilder (\$7,500) first prize Thursday in the third Prof. Dr. Max Euwe Memorial Tournament.

Victory

The peaceful result, after a tense 61 moves in which the Dutchman had to fight for his life, brought Timman's total score to 4-1/2 points for an unbeaten tournament record of three wins and three draws.

The second prize of 10,000 guilders (\$5,000) went to Britain's Nigel Short, who defeated Icelandic grandmaster Johann Hjartarson in Thursday's sixth round.

The victory boosted Short's score to four points for an overall performance of three wins, two draws and one loss over the six rounds of the event, held annually in honour of the Netherlands' only world chess champion.

Salov netted 7,500 guilders (\$3,750) for his third place with two wins, two draws and two defeats, while Hjartarson received 5,000 guilders (\$2,500) for the draw and five losses he had during the week-long tournament.

Results of Thursday's sixth and final round were: Salov-Timman, 1-2 (1-2 (61 moves, irregular opening) Hjartarson — Short, 0-1, (40 moves, English opening)

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Salim Malik hits unbeaten century to win awards

Pakistan beat Sri Lanka to clinch Sharjah Cup

SHARJAH, March 24, (AP): Salim Malik slammed a brilliant unbeaten century to take Pakistan to a seven-wicket victory over Sri Lanka today and win the Sharjah Cup and \$15,000.

Malik, named Man of the Match and Player of the Two-game Series, was in irresistible form to take Pakistan to 248 for 3 in the 50-over match with 21 overs to spare. Sri Lanka earlier scored 244 for 8.

The Sri Lankans took home \$10,000, the loser's purse from the Cricketers Benefit Fund Series, which organised the series.

Pakistan won the first match yesterday by 30 runs.

Salim's masterly innings won both the Man of the Match and Man of the Series awards and enabled the Pakistani team to lift the Sharjah Cup.

Sri Lanka scored 244 for eight in 50 overs to set Pakistan a challenging target. But Salim, who hit 71 in the opening match, received splendid support from Shoaib Mohammad (65) and skipper Imran Khan.

Shoaib posted his second consecutive fifty of the tournament while Imran slammed a belligerent 50 off 54 balls. The Pakistani captain also hit the winning stroke, a savage blow off

newcomer Nital Ratnayake.

Salim, who came to the crease when Pakistan were in trouble after losing Rameez Raja (five) and Aamir Malik (20) for 46, posted partnerships of 102 with Shoaib and 100 with Imran.

Pakistan, beaten three times by Sri Lanka in Asia Cup matches, got their revenge yesterday by beating their rivals by 30 runs in the first match.

The Pakistanis, put into bat after Sri Lanka won the toss, hit 237 runs for eight wickets on a perfect pitch in the 50-over match.

Then their bowlers, spearheaded by paceman Aqib Javed and Mustaq Ahmed, dismissed the Sri Lankans for 207 in 48.4 overs in the match at Sharjah stadium.

Aqib took two for 15 off 6.4 overs while Mustaq claimed 2 for 33.

Pakistani opener Shoaib Mohammad scored 76, the best of the day, and claimed the \$500 Man of the Match award yesterday.

His innings gave the Pakistanis a solid base after his partner, Rameez Raja, was dismissed cheaply for 13 with the score at 31.

The stylish Salim Malik also sparked with an innings of 71.

Sri Lanka, who lost two early wickets with just 29 runs on board, never really settled down against the varied Pakistani attack.

Partnership
The steady partnership in the innings was the third wicket pair of Brendon Kuruppu and Aravinda de Silva.

De Silva, who hit Sri Lanka's top score with a crisp 48 studded with four boundaries, added 53 runs with Kuruppu, who made a dour 22 before he was bowled by Mustaq.

De Silva's excellently-paced innings ended when Mustaq, playing in this emirate on his debut for Pakistan, made a brilliant return catch with the total at 109.

Though skipper Arjuna Ranatunga, with 17, and his predecessor Duleep Mendis, who hit 23, tried to salvage the game, the Sri Lankans crumbled.

Stout efforts by left-handers Harshan Tilakaratne, on 23, and Asoka de Silva, 19 not out, failed to halt the Pakistanis.

In the morning, the Pakistanis failed to capitalise on a solid second wicket partnership between Mohammed and Malik.

The young pair hit 127 runs in almost 25 overs to lift Pakistan from 31 for 1 to 158, when

Mohammed was well stumped by the agile Kuruppu after an innings that included eight boundaries.

Malik departed next with the score at 174. His entertaining innings included four boundaries.

Tightened up
The Sri Lankans tightened up their bowling and fielding and the rest of the Pakistani batsmen failed to get on top.

Roshan Mahanama typified the crisp fielding at covers, with some brilliant saves despite a sprained ankle.

Spinner Ashoka de Silva kept the Pakistanis in check with two wickets in successive overs, getting rid of Malik and captain Imran Khan who had pushed himself up the order in a bid to boost the score.

Pakistan lost their way when three wickets crashed with the score static at 221. Burly Ravi Ratnayake eliminated Aamer Malik with a direct hit on the stumps in a follow through from mid-off.

Abdul Qadir, the main beneficiary in this Cricketers Benefit Fund Series matches and who is in line for \$50,000 today, badly bruised his left hand as he attempted to stop a wicked drive from Kuruppu in his fifth over and left

the field.

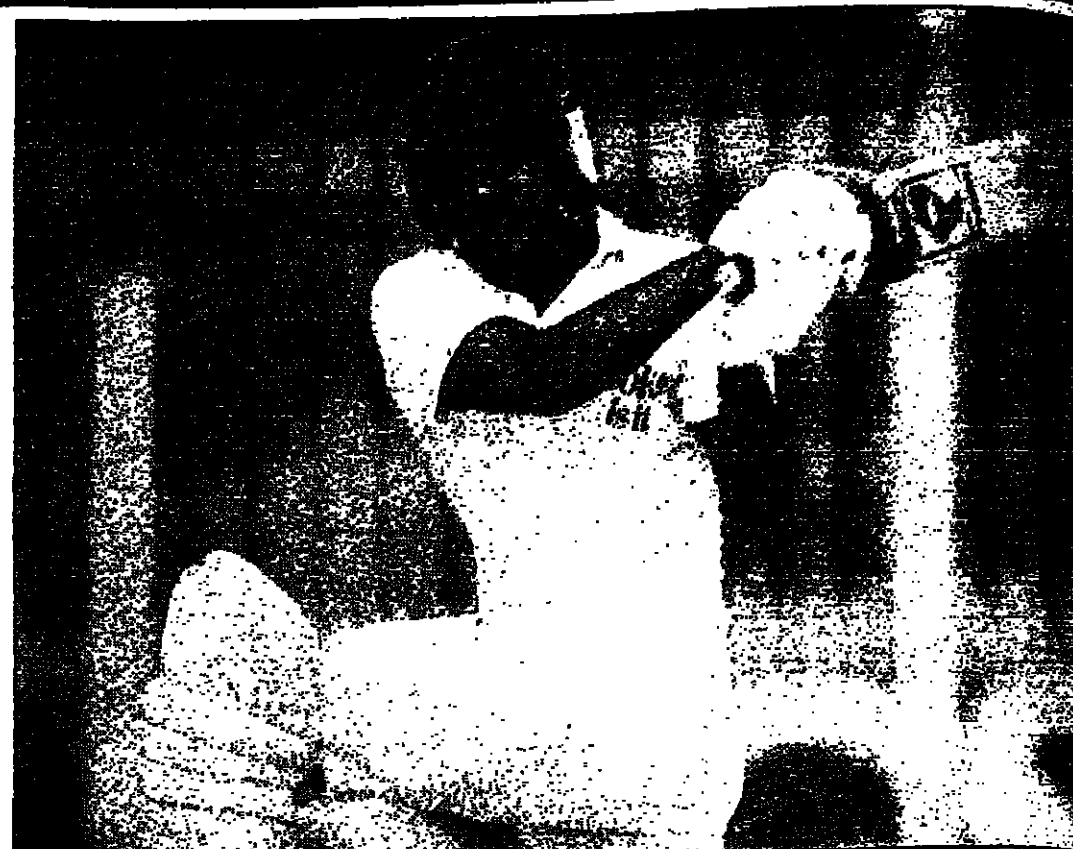
The match was umpired by Babu Gupta and R. Ramaswamy of India.

Teams:
PAKISTAN: Shoaib Mohammad, Rameez Raja, Aamer Malik, Salim Malik, Imran Khan (captain), Ejaz Ahmed, Abdul Qadir, Mustaq Ahmed, Tauseef Ahmed, Salim Jaffer, Aqib Javed, 12th man Mansur Rana.

SRI LANKA: Brendon Kuruppu, Roshan Mahanama, Aravinda de Silva, Athula Samarasekera, Arjuna Ranatunga (captain), Duleep Mendis, Ravi Ratnayake, Ashoka de Silva, Harshan Tilakaratne, Graeme Labrooy and Kapila Wijegunawardena. 12th man Roger Wijesuriya.

Scoreboard
Scoreboard of the second and final match today.

SRI LANKA
Mohammed b Shoaib Mohammad... 35
Kuruppu b S. Yusuf b Shoaib... 60
A. Samarasekera b A. Malik b S. Jaffer... 15
A. Ranatunga b Aqib J. b Imran Khan... 20
D. Mendis run out... 20
G. Labrooy b Imran... 9
H. Tilakaratne not out... 10
R. Ratnayake b Mustaq Ahmed b Imran... 18



Salim Malik hits century to win awards

Extras (b-11 w-2)... 13
TOTAL (eight wickets, 50 overs) 244
Fall of wickets: 1-74 (2-127 3-157 4-197 5-211 6-211 7-219 8-244)
Did not bat: Asoka de Silva, N. Ratnayake
Bowling: Imran 10-0-49-3, Aqib 9-0-32-0, Jaffer 7-0-36-1, Tauseef Ahmed 8-0-39-0, Shoaib 10-0-42-2, Mustaq 6-0-35-0.

PAKISTAN
Rameez Raja b N. Ratnayake... 5
Shoaib Mohammad b Tilakaratne b R. Ratnayake... 65
Aamer Malik b Ashoka de Silva... 20
Salim Malik not out... 109
Imran Khan not out... 50
Extras (b-11 w-1 w-1)... 8
TOTAL (three wickets, 47.5 overs) 248

Fall of wickets: 1-18 2-46 3-148
Did not bat: Ejaz Ahmed, Salim Jaffer, Tauseef Ahmed, Aqib J. Jaffer, R. Ratnayake 9-0-35-0, N. Ratnayake 9-5-59-1, Asoka de Silva 10-0-38-1, Labrooy 6-0-24-0, Samarasekera 2-0-15-0, Ranatunga 9-0-42-0, Aravinda de Silva 2-0-11-0
Pakistan won by seven wickets.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Al Ahli win title

CAIRO, March 24, (Reuters): Al Ahli won Egypt's soccer league title for the 23rd time by beating Cairo rivals Zamalek 1-0 today in a match marred by crowd trouble.

Al Ahli scored the winning goal in the 14th minute when unmarked midfielder Alaa Mayboub sent the ball home from a long cross from striker Mohammed Abdel Ghalil.

The match was interrupted for seven minutes in the 60th minute when some Zamalek fans hurled stones at Al Ahli players. Riot police carrying sticks took up positions to protect the players.

Hearts fined

GENEVA, March 24, (Reuters): Scotland's Hearts have been fined 100,000 Swiss francs (\$62,500) by UEFA for allowing the home leg of their UEFA Cup quarterfinal against Bayern Munich to be televised live in West Germany.

The fine, a record for television transmission offences, was imposed by UEFA today following complaints by the West German Football Association (DFB).

UEFA also fined Italy's Napoli 50,000 Swiss francs (\$30,000) today because spectators threw smoke bombs and fireworks during a UEFA Cup match on March 15.

Jeff Olson wins

CRESTED BUTTE, Colorado, March 24, (AP): Jeff Olson won his second consecutive downhill title in the US Alpine Championships yesterday, beating US ski team teammate Kyle Rasmussen by 29 seconds.

The women's downhill was postponed after Megan Gerety and Stephanie Palmer fell and were injured on a rapidly deteriorating course, authorities said. The race was rescheduled for today.

Sheraton bridge

RESULTS of Sheraton Bridge Club game held on Friday:

1. Magdi Mesdari & Adel Bayyumi
2. Marcel Zananiri & Inyas Meouchi
3. Ahmed Huedi & Sherin Bayyumi
4. Chandrashekar & Nissar Khan

1. Santosh Arora & Simon K.T.
2. Mohammed Merchant & Stanley Drexler
3. Ravi Bhatti & Dhruva Mukherjee
4. Johnny Esperance & Amar Al Ebidin

Soviet Grand Prix

MOSCOW, March 24, (Reuters): The Soviet Motor Federation signed an agreement with a Liechtenstein company today as a first step towards staging a Formula One motor racing Grand Prix, the official Tass news agency said.

English soccer

LONDON, March 24, (Reuters): Results of British soccer matches played today:

- English Division Two
Oldham 0 Blackburn 1
Watford 0 C. Palace 1
Division Three
Brentford 0 Fulham 1

West Indies seek first victory over India

GEORGETOWN, March 24, (Reuters): West Indies, hampered by the absence of key strike bowler Malcolm Marshall, seek their first victory here since 1965 when they beat India in the first cricket Test starting tomorrow.

The Bourda pitch is not expected to favour the powerful West Indian pace attack and the loss of Marshall through injury significantly reduces their firepower.

Marshall's ability to swing the ball both ways makes him the most dangerous of the West Indian bowlers on slow pitches whereas the other pacemen rely on lift and movement off the seam.

Bowler

Curtly Ambrose, who has developed into a world class bowler over the past year, takes over Marshall's role as premier strike bowler and he will be ably

backed up by Winston Benjamin and Ian Bishop.

Benjamin, who deputises for Marshall, is a much improved bowler while Bishop was genuinely hostile during the one-day series, won 5-0 by West Indies.

Bishop, 21, was responsible for breaking Indian opener Krishna Srikanth's forearm in the final one-day international.

Srikanth's replacement is almost certain to be Sanjay Manjrekar, who hit a fine 109 against the West Indies under-23 side in St Kitts.

Manjrekar, whose father Vijay toured West Indies in 1961-62, is likely to bat at number five with Navjot Sidhu opening with Arun Lal. In his only other Test appearance against West Indies in Delhi two years ago, Manjrekar was forced to retire hurt after being hit in the face by Benjamin.

Indian hopes of winning the Test are centred on their three-pronged spin attack of Narendra Hirwani, Arshad Ayub and Ravi Shastri.

Leg-spinner Hirwani spun West Indies to defeat when he took 16 wickets in his Test debut in Madras in 1987.

Rain, which washed out three days of the drawn Test here in 1982-83, could also play an important part.

Torrential rain fell on Wednesday and there were still large puddles on the ground the following day.

Meanwhile, the local Cricket Umpires' Fraternity criticised two colleagues for working in a recent one-day international when the West Indies Cricket Board of Control failed to name any for the general series against India.

The independent newspaper

Forsman takes first round lead

NEW ORLEANS, March 24, (Agencies): American Dan Forsman played the New English Turn country club course for the first time yesterday and shot a six-under-par 66 to take the first lead in the \$750,000 New Orleans Classic golf tournament.

He held a two-stroke lead over Greg Norman of Australia and Americans Bill Sander, Pat McGowan, Tom Byrum, Tim Simpson and Lee Chell.

This is a Jack Nicklaus designed course and the architect played it in one-over-par 73. "I didn't play too badly, but I thought the course played rather difficult today," he said.

American Tom Kite, bidding for his third straight triumph, posted a two-under-par 70. He had three birdies and only one bogey.

Seve Ballesteros of Spain, tuning up for the Masters tournament in two weeks, birdied three of his first six holes but he could not keep up that pace. He finished an even-par 72.

In Katori, Japan, defending champion Bob Charles of New Zealand and American Orville Moody each shot a 5-under-par 67 to share a one-stroke lead over Arnold Palmer of the United States in the first round of the \$370,000 Fuji Electric Grand-slam golf tournament today.

In the official US PGA Seniors tour event, Charles and Moody each sank an identical number of six birdies against one bogey in negotiating, in a drizzle, the 6,660-yard Oak Hills Country Club Course near Tokyo's new international airport.

Palmer birdied two of his last three holes in a round of six birdies against two bogeys.

Tied for fourth place at 69 were Gene Littler and Larry Mowry, both of the United States.

In Jakarta, Jeff Maggert of the United States fired an even-par 70 today to hold on to his two-stroke lead in the third round of the Indonesian Open golf championship.

Maggert now has a 199 total,

bettering Australian Anthony Gulligan's score by two strokes. Today, Gulligan jumped from 6th to 2nd place with a 201 total after carding a 5-under-par 65.

Emilyn Aubrey, Andrew Delusk, Jeff Cook and Kirk Triplett, all of the United States, were one stroke behind Gulligan.

In Phoenix, Allison Finney birdied her first three holes and her final four for a 7-under-par 66 and a two-shot lead over Beth Daniel after yesterday's first round of the \$400,000 LPGA Turquoise Classic.

Finney, whose best finish in her seven-year LPGA career is a tie for second place at the 1985 Hall of Fame championship, came within one stroke of tying Amy Alcott's course-record 65 set in last year's first round.

The 30-year-old Finney, starting her late-afternoon round on the back nine, had birdie putts on holes 10, 11, 12, 3, 6, 7, 8 and 9 with only a bogey on No. 1 at the 6,514-yard Moon Valley country club course — the longest on the tour this year.

Woman cricket umpire elected

LONDON, March 24, (Reuters): A woman has been elected chairman of the Association of Cricket Umpires, which represents the sport's umpires and scorers throughout the world.

Sheila Hill, 60, a retired school teacher, has umpired widely, but almost exclusively in matches between women's teams.

Her election could pose a problem for the game's male bastion.

The famous Lord's Ground does not admit women to the pavilion on match days, although the situation is being reviewed.

"There are occasions when our chairman may need to be at Lord's on association business. We await with interest the (official) attitude on the matter," said an ACU spokesman.

Meanwhile, England all-rounder Ian Botham begins his bid to regain a test place when he leaves tomorrow for a pre-season cricket tour of three countries with his club Worcestershire.

Lancia team lead in Safari rally

NAIROBI, Kenya, March 24, (AP): Argentinian Jorge Recalde, driving a Lancia Delta Integrale in his Marlboro Safari Rally debut, today roared off the ramp leading 29 vehicles, less than half the number that started the race.

Thirty cars fell out of the rally after its start yesterday due to mechanical problems and impassible muddy stretches along the race's first two legs to 776 miles (1,251-kilometres) through southeastern Kenya.

Two minutes behind Recalde was Italian teammate Masimo "Miki" defending champion.

Pressure

The Italian makes were under pressure from two Toyota Supras, two Nissan 200SXs and three Subarus as the vehicles left Nairobi's Kenyatta Conference Centre under clear skies.

Other vehicles among the top 10 included a Volkswagen Golf GTI 16V, one of three Golfs

remaining from nine that started the field.

Recalde had 01:24:01 penalty points, while Biasion had 01:28:27. Sweden's Bjorn Waldegard, driving a Toyota Supra, was third off the ramp having lost 01:32:23.

Kenya's Mike Kirkland in a Nissan won the first leg, but ran into trouble returning to Nairobi last night when a front tire blew. He started fourth with 01:33:11 in penalty points today.

Required

Sweden's Stig Blomqvist in a golf was fifth with 02:03:21 penalty points and Kenyan Vic Preston Jr sixth in a Nissan and 02:03:21 penalty points. Seventh was Kenyan Jim Heather-Hayes in a Subaru, with 02:25:57 penalty points, and eighth was New Zealand's Peter "Possum" Bourne, also in a Subaru, with 02:39:45 penalty points.

Erwin Weber in a golf was ninth, with 02:43:10 penalty

points. In 10th place was Kenyan Ian Duncan in a Toyota Supra with 03:36:28 penalty points.

Vehicles are required to cover specified distances within certain periods and penalty points are the amount of time a driver is late in arriving at checkpoints.

Peter Hughes, course clerk, told the Associated Press the high rate of retirement in the first two legs was due to lack of preparation of both vehicles and drivers.

"Now only the best drivers and well prepared vehicles are left in the race," Hughes said. "The retirement rate will be lower."

The cars that manage to stay with the race until its finish on Monday still must survive 4,130 kilometres (2,560 miles) of treacherous dirt roads winding past Mt Kenya, Africa's second highest peak, scorching desert and razor sharp volcanic rocks in great rift valley tracks.

Eight drivers eliminated from Brazil Grand Prix

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 24, (AP): Eight drivers were eliminated from the Brazilian Grand Prix auto race in a qualifying heat before the start of time trials today.

The top five finishers in the heat qualified for the trials, but the field of 30 drivers will be further reduced to 26 for Sunday's race, the first of the Formula-1 racing season.

The two drivers of the new Brabham-Judd team led the qualifying field, with England's Martin Brundle setting the quickest lap with a time of 1 minute, 27.764 seconds around the 3.1-mile (5.03-kilometre) Nelson Piquet track.

Stefano Modena of Italy was second in the other Brabham with a time of 1:28.147.

"The car is excellent, and the track is nice and grippy. I think we can finish in the top 10 in the race," Brundle said after the heat.

The other qualifiers were Gregor Foitek of Switzerland in

a Eurobrun-Judd, Nicola Larini of Italy in an Osella-Ford, and Bernd Schneider of West Germany in a Zakspeed-Yamaha.

The qualifying heat was adopted this year to reduce the large number of new drivers and teams in Formula-1 racing.

A record 38 drivers from 20 teams were entered for the Brazilian Grand Prix.

For safety reasons, the Paris-based International Federation of Auto Sports limited to 30 the number of cars in the time trials.

The federation also created a ranking of drivers, with the top 26 pre-qualified and the rest competing for the remaining four berths in the trials.

One of the pre-qualified drivers, Philippe Streiff of France, dropped out after a serious accident in his AGS-Ford during tyre test here earlier this month.

The AGS-Ford team said Streiff would be replaced later this season by Gabriele Tarquini of Italy.

Lawson ninth in practice of Japanese Grand Prix

SUZUKA, Japan, March 24, (Reuters): World motorcycle champion Eddie Lawson finished a disappointing ninth in the first official practice today for Sunday's Japanese Grand Prix, this year's opening race in the World Championship series.

Lawson still appeared to be affected by wrist and back injuries suffered during training two weeks ago.

Five other riders had no such problems. All broke the course record.

The smiling American was unhappy with his time but said his new Honda machine was working well.

After six successful years with Yamaha, during which he won the world title three times, Lawson switched to Honda in October to ride the same machine as his biggest rival, Wayne Gardner of Australia.

Gardner, determined to recover the championship he won in 1987, was third behind Friday's practice on two machines, 12.988 seconds behind American Wayne Rainey (2:12.420) and Kevin Schwantz (2:12.658). Lawson recorded 2:15.044.

Rainey on a Yamaha and Schwantz on a Suzuki dipped nearly two seconds below the old record. Rainey, third in the title race last year, and Schwantz, who won here on his favourite track last season, are expected to figure largely this year.

Due to constant rain, no rider could better his time in the afternoon on the extended figure-eight course. The forecast for Sunday, however, is sunny.

Former triple champion Freddie Spencer, who has returned to the fray, finished 10th on a Yamaha just behind competing Lawson.

Spencer retired before the start of last season because of a severe wrist problem.

"If he does his maximum (for riders)," said Spencer's former rival and another three-time champion Kenny Roberts, who now coaches Rainey.

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